

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 20, 2020

Mr. Gary F. Clark  
Chairman, Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Mr. Jared Moskowitz  
Director, Florida Division of Emergency  
Management  
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Commissioner Clark and Director Moskowitz:

We write to request that the Florida Public Service Commission work with the Florida Department of Health and Florida Division of Emergency Management to temporarily suspend disconnections of all water, sewer, electricity, and gas services in the State of Florida for 60 days during the national emergency of the coronavirus pandemic.

On March 9, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring a state of emergency and providing state and local government agencies broad power to respond to COVID-19. Especially in the middle of a public health crisis, Floridians must be able to rely on consistent access to power in their homes. At the same time, state agencies have a responsibility to prevent the spread of the virus while avoiding putting additional stress on utility customers and the workforce.

Earlier this week, the Mississippi Public Service Commission decided to temporarily suspend disconnections of these critical services for 60 days. Throughout the temporary suspension of disconnection, utility customers are still expected to pay outstanding bills and pay for services provided during the 60-day period.<sup>1</sup> Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio, and other states have put in place similar orders, as well as some local governments, including Seattle, Washington, and Austin, Texas.

Issuing a similar decision for the State of Florida will allow customers additional flexibility to deal with the spread of coronavirus and its economic impacts. We appreciate your full and fair consideration of our letter, and your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wlbt.com/2020/03/15/public-service-commission-temporarily-suspends-utility-disconnections-response-covid/>



Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Val Demings  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



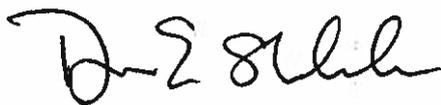
Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress



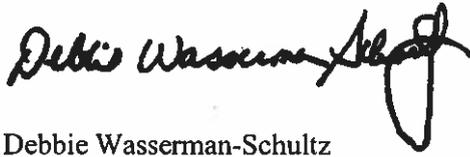
Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Donna Shalala  
Member of Congress



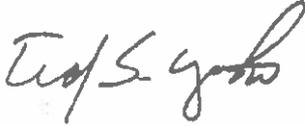
Ross Spano  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman-Schultz  
Member of Congress

/s/

Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress



Ted Yoho  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

cc: Federal Emergency Management Agency