

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, JULY 2013**

**Glenn Heran**

As the sale of Vero Electric to FPL continues, certain regulatory approvals must be received at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Florida Public Service Commission. However, I believe the most significant obstacle will be clearing the bureaucracy known as the FMPA.

Opposition to the sale will always be with us despite the fact that 64% of the City of Vero Beach voters and 84% of the Vero Electric customers have approved the sale to FPL. A minority of the population continues to believe that the government should compete with the private sector. That belief is neither consistent with the mission of the Taxpayers Association nor is it founded on empirical data. None of the 33 city owned electric utilities can compete FPL, only a hand full can compete with TECO and a minority can compete with Duke Energy.

A major underpinning of the entire state wide municipal electric bureaucracies, which includes the FMPA, is based on an unjust principle. These city electric systems claim permanent control of outside customers who have no representation or consumer choice. Twenty-four cities have outside customers and half of these also pay municipal surcharges in addition to already exorbitant and unregulated rates.

Some opposed to the sale, like Jay Kramer and the Civic Association have even intervened with FERC. I have attached the responses by the City of Vero Beach, Mayor Fletcher and FPL to those opposition filings. These make excellent reading and reaffirms why we, as a community, have voted to leave the inefficient government run electric utilities. We recognize that access to FPL rates is the greatest economic development opportunity in Indian River County today. FPL rates will leave roughly \$25 million in the pockets of our residents and will allow our government to refocus on the delivery of essential services.

Three council members are truly committed to delivering on the public's will to sell to FPL. A leading member of the Taxpayers Association best summarizes their commitment and tenacity. When faced with the largest of the obstacles to the sale, the FMPA, Pilar Turner writes:

“Although FMPA continues to highlight obstacles, I believe this just highlights the resolve of the Council, the voters and the customers of Vero Electric, who remain committed to proceeding with the sale, and we will continue to find a way.”

Thank you Councilwoman Turner, Mayor Fletcher and Vice Mayor Carroll for your commitment.

Glenn Heran