



Leon County

Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 606-5302 www.leoncountyfl.gov

Commissioners

October 1, 2010

BILL PROCTOR
District 1

The Honorable Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator

JANE G. SAULS
District 2

United States Courthouse Annex
111 North Adams Street

JOHN DAILEY
District 3

Tallahassee, FL 32301

BRYAN DESLOGE
District 4

Dear Senator Nelson:

BOB RACKLEFF
District 5

On behalf of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, we write to you to ask for your urgent support for and swift passage of S. 3642, the PACE Assessment Protection Act, or similar PACE legislation, before the end of the Congressional session.

CLIFF THAELL
At-Large

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) finance programs are a local government solution that helps home and business owners finance energy efficient and renewable energy improvements. The Leon County Board of County Commissioners created its own such program on April 13, 2010, when it created the Leon County Energy Improvement District. By providing owners with long-term financing options that are repaid through an assessment on property taxes, PACE provides financial security for home and business owners, creates jobs in the home improvement industry and boosts manufacturing of clean and efficient technologies and products.

AKIN AKINYEMI
At-Large

PARWEZ ALAM
County Administrator

HERBERT W.A. THIELE
County Attorney

PACE has tremendous potential to create tens of thousands of local jobs, cut energy bills, reduce mortgage default risk, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by spurring investment in clean energy improvements. These programs have received strong bipartisan support from state and local governments nationwide. But now, financing for PACE is at risk due to recent statements issued by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). We believe the FHFA's action regarding Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac are in violation of state and federal laws, including local government home rule authority under the Florida and U.S. Constitutions. To that end, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners has authorized our County to institute a federal lawsuit to overturn FHFA's actions. But the real solution, and more prompt resolution, would come from Congress enacting legislation to correct FHFA's actions.

In today's economy, where over 2 million construction workers have lost their jobs in four years, programs that spur employment while also slashing energy use and emissions from homes and buildings are the economic future of our country. It is imperative that these are supported, not discouraged. The PACE program funded by the Department of Energy (DOE) was moving our country in the right direction, and now the FHFA has halted that progress.

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Congress cannot allow the FHFA to stand in the way of clean energy jobs and lower utility bills for millions of Americans. We urge you to act expeditiously to pass legislation that would allow PACE programs to proceed, putting Americans back to work immediately and helping our consumers do the right thing by making property investments to reduce their carbon footprint and save money.

The PACE Assessment Protection Act, or similar legislation, would explicitly affirm the right of state and local governments to move forward with PACE by directing the Federal entities responsible for mortgage lending to adopt underwriting standards that are consistent with the PACE guidelines issued by DOE. This bill would also ensure that no Federal agency can discriminate against communities implementing or participating in a PACE program, offering critical protection and security to home owners, businesses and local governments. We strongly urge you to support this legislation and get our country back on the right track.

Sincerely,

LEON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Bob Rackleff, Chairman

cc: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners
Parwez Alam, County Administration
Maggie Theriot, Sustainability Coordinator
Herbert W.A. Thiele, Esq., County Attorney



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BILL PROCTOR
District 1

The Honorable George LeMieux
U.S. Senator
3802 Spectrum Boulevard
Tamps, FL 33612

JANE G. SAULS
District 2

JOHN DAILEY
District 3

Dear Senator LeMieux:

BRYAN DESLOGE
District 4

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The Honorable Allen Boyd
U. S. Representative
United States Congress
1227 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

JANE G. SAULS
District 2

JOHN DAILEY
District 3

BRYAN DESLOGE
District 4

BOB RACKLEFF
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