Solar Press Conference Announces 150+ Endorsements for Amendment 4 as Voting Begins for August Primary

Policy to lower the cost of solar in Florida on August primary ballot

Miami, Fla. – As primary voters begin to cast the 2 million+ vote-by-mail ballots requested for this month’s primary or prepare to go to the polls later this month, solar businesses and advocates held a press conference today to reveal the broad and growing base of bi-partisan support being generated for Amendment 4.

To date more than 159 organizations, associations, businesses, elected officials and government bodies have declared their support of Amendment 4 on the August 30 primary ballot in Florida. A complete list can be found below and on the campaign website.

If approved by voters, Amendment 4 will exempt solar panels and other renewable energy equipment from two onerous taxes - the real property tax and the tangible property tax - for a period of 20 years.

Reducing the costs of solar will encourage more solar development in Florida, allowing residents to lock in energy savings, create jobs, spur economic development and bring much-needed diversity to the state’s energy mix.

Today’s press conference speakers included Sean Gallagher, Vice President of State Affairs of Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA); Pamela Goodman, State President of The League of Women Voters of Florida; Patrick Altier, Vice President and Legislative Chair of Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA); Dan Patry, Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs of Juwi Inc.; Tory Perfetti, Board President of Floridians 4 Lower Energy Costs, and was moderated by Alissa Schafer of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE).

Each speaker emphasized the diverse support for Amendment 4 in both the solar and business community and underscored the importance of voting yes on Amendment 4 for the future of Florida’s business and economic environment. “Voting yes on Amendment 4 is an important way for Floridians to send a message that they want their state open for business to solar companies here in the Sunshine State, and across the nation,” said Sean Gallagher, Vice
“Juwi Inc. supports Florida’s continued leadership in creating an attractive business environment, and Amendment 4 would further that reputation,” said Dan Patry, of Juwi Inc., a large solar developer who developed and built a 15 megawatt solar project in Jacksonville in 2010. “Lower taxes on these types of in-state solar projects makes solar more affordable for all and adds a cost-effective, clean and reliable resource to the state’s energy mix.”

Amendment 4 is strongly supported by smaller solar companies in Florida, as well. Florida Solar Energy Industries Association Vice President Patrick Altier highlighted the vast support of their many Florida solar contractor members: “Our membership ranges from small family businesses to large solar developers, many of which have been in Florida for many decades. Amendment 4 is an important measure for all of these local businesses, because it lays the financial foundation for affordable energy and well paying, local jobs.”

According to one FlaSEIA member, Solar Impact, “Reinstating the property tax exemption for businesses is important for the growth of solar in Florida. The property taxes on commercial solar projects can be over 20 percent of the value of the electricity. This added expense is killing good solar projects before they get started. Solar helps homes and businesses in Florida. It creates jobs, saves money, and improves the environment.”

“With the start of vote by mail, ballots are already being cast for the August primary,” said State President of the League of Women Voters of Florida, Pamela Goodman. “Amendment 4 is an incredibly important initiative that the League is proud to support because it will help encourage and expand solar for small businesses by eliminating the tangible personal property tax on business installations of rooftop solar, lowering the cost of solar and making clean affordable energy accessible by Floridians.”

“Our current tax structure in regards to solar devices and general renewables is needlessly adding to higher energy costs in Florida,” said Tory Perfetti, Chair of Floridians 4 Lower Energy Costs. “Amendment 4 will help lower citizens’ power bills by exempting these taxes on renewable energy devices, creating jobs, saving individuals, families and businesses money while helping ensure that Floridians have the option to access more affordable energy choices.”

Endorsements have come from the following entities and individuals and will be continually updated on the campaign’s website here:

**Solar Industry Endorsing**
Superior Solar
Brilliant Harvest
Universal Solar
Solar-Fit
Harriman's Inc.
Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA)
Florida Alliance for Renewable Energy (FARE)
Urban Solar
Solar Education Association of the Florida Keys
Solar Impact
Women4Solar
Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)
Solar Trek
Tampa Energy Solutions
Cutler Bay Solar Solutions
Southern Current
Solar Source
A1A Solar
Evolved Solar
Power Production Management Inc.
Alternate Energy Technologies
Green Energy Products
SolarTech Universal
JSG Solar Inc.
EDF Renewable Energy
Solar Direct
Sunrise Systems of Brevard, Inc.
ACNS Company, Inc.
Blue Green Energy
Sybac Solar
JuwI
Coronal Group
TerraWise Homes, Inc.
Soleo Energy Consulting
Cypress Creek Renewables
UMA Solar
VB Engineering

**Organizations/Associations Endorsing**
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)
Florida Retail Federation
Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
The Nature Conservancy
Sierra Club of Florida
League of Women Voters Florida
Christian Coalition of Florida
Conservatives for Energy Freedom
Space Coast Climate Change Initiative
Progress Florida
USGBC - Florida Chapter
Organize Now
The Climate Reality Project
The CLEO Institute
Florida Association for Insurance Reform
Everglades Coalition
Florida AFL-CIO
St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Hands Across the Sand
Fair Insurance Rates for Monroe (FIRM)
ReThink Energy Florida Action Fund
Ecology Party
Clean Water Action
Florida Green Chamber of Commerce
Broward Democratic Party
Palm Beach Democratic Party
Women's Democratic Club of West Broward
Miami Dade Democratic Party
IDEAS for Us
Leon County Democratic Party
Florida Wildlife Federation
Audubon of Florida
Audubon of Western Everglades
Florida Realtors
Putnam County Environmental Council
Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee Board of Directors
Floridians for Solar Choice
Climate Action Coalition of South Florida
Greenpeace
Florida Conservation Voters
Vote Solar
UU Justice Florida
Audubon Society of the Everglades
EarthJustice - Tallahassee
Union of Concerned Scientists
First Green Bank
BOMA Florida
Coastal Cay Vacation Rentals
Fleamasters Flea Market (home of one of FL’s largest solar arrays)
Barry A Weiss, Attorney at Law
Go Electric e Bikes and Scooters
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
Surfrider Foundation
Interfaith Justice League
Collier Citizens for Sustainability
Big Bend Sierra Club
Advanced Energy Economy (AEE)

**Media Endorsing**
Tampa Bay Times
Tallahassee Democrat
Tampa Tribune
Bradenton Herald

**Elected Official Endorsing**
State Senator Jeff Brandes (R - St. Petersburg) [bill sponsor]
State Rep. Lori Berman (D - Boynton Beach) [bill sponsor]
State Senator Jack Latvala (R - Clearwater)
State Senator Anitere Flores (R - Miami)
Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran (R - Land O' Lakes)
State Rep. Amanda Murphy (D - New Port Richey)
State Rep. Daryl Rouson (D - St. Petersburg)
State Rep. Frank Artiles (R - Miami)
State Rep. Manny Diaz, Jr. (R - Hialeah)
State Rep. Victor M. “Vic” Torres, Jr. (D - Orlando)
State Rep. Jose Felix Diaz (R - Miami)
State Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D - Tallahassee)
State Rep. Dave Kerner (D - Lake Worth)
State Rep. Jose Javier Rodriguez (D - Miami)
State Rep. Chris Latvala (R - Clearwater)
State Rep. Chris Sprowls (R - Palm Harbor)
Monroe County Mayor Heather Carruthers
Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano
Pinecrest Mayor Cindy Lerner
Pinecrest Vice Mayor James E. McDonald
South Miami Mayor Philip Stoddard
South Miami Vice Mayor Bob Welsh
St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman
St. Petersburg City Council Member Karl Nurse
St. Petersburg City Council Member Darden Rice
St. Petersburg City Council Member Ed Montanari
Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado
Marathon Mayor Mark Senmartin
Miami Lakes Vice Mayor Tim Daubert
Hallandale Beach Mayor Joy Cooper
Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis
North Bay Village Commissioner Richard Chervony
Miami Beach City Commissioner John E. Alemán
Miami Beach City Commissioner Ricky Arriola
Coconut Creek City Commissioner Becky Tooley
Cutler Bay Town Council Member Roger Coriat
Largo City Commissioner Mike Smith
Tampa City Council Member Yvonne Yolie Capin
Broward County School Board Member Robin Bartleman
Seminole Soil & Water Conservation District - Chair & Supervisor, Judith Benson
Seminole Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor Ed Young
Seminole Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor Donald Menzel

**Candidates for Office Endorsing**
Congressional Candidate Alina Valdes
Congressional Candidate Jim Lange
Congressional Candidate Tim Canova
State Senate Candidate Dean Asher
State Senate Candidate Mario A. Jimenez
State Rep. Candidate John Couriel
State Rep. Candidate John W. Scott
Broward State Attorney Candidate Teresa Williams
City Commission Candidate Mitchell Stollberg-Appleyard
County Commission Candidate Pat Kemp

**Government Bodies Endorsing**
Monroe County
Broward County
Palm-Beach County
Marathon
City of Boynton Beach
Town of Cutler Bay
Miami Beach Sustainability Committee

###