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February 18, 2019

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The Honorable Audrey Gibson
The Florida Senate
404 S. Monroe Street, Room 200 SOB
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 450 Exemption/Public Meetings – Local Government Utilities

Dear Senator Gibson:

We are writing in response to SB 450, creating an exemption for portions of public meetings at which information relating to the security of a public electric utility's information technology systems. Such information is exempt under s. 119.0713(5), F.S. SB 450 would create a public meeting exemption for portions of utility board meetings at which such exempt information is discussed.

We are not opposed to the purpose and intent of the exemption, Senator Gibson. We suggest, however, the bill be amended to require a recording of the closed portions of meetings to allow an opportunity for oversight and accountability of the public board. If SB 450 is amended to require the recording, the Foundation will take a neutral position on the bill.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns, Senator. If you or staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Petersen, President

Cc: The Honorable Bill Galvano, President, The Florida Senate.