

Dear Mayor Poe & City Commissioners,

The Suwannee St. Johns Sierra Club (SSJ) encourages you to pass the Renters' Rights Ordinance this week. We believe renters in this community are due basic rights and protections such as a safe place to live, affordable utility bills, and disclosure of their rights and responsibilities as tenants. We also believe this can and should be accomplished without undue burden on landlords or additional financial burden on tenants.

SSJ is supporting this proposal as part of its Ready for 100% campaign. As reported in the 2017 Energy Burden study produced by UF's College of Journalism and Communications, "substandard, inefficient housing is also a factor, particularly in the rental market. Despite more than a decade of community efforts to fix inferior homes, some of Gainesville's poorest renters still live without basic attic insulation or updated, efficient appliances that keep families comfortable in addition to saving them money and energy." Achieving the goal of 100% clean renewable energy by 2050 is possible only if all our local housing stock is energy efficient.

While not a complete solution for solving our community's affordable housing or energy challenges, this ordinance is an important step on that path.

Sincerely,
Roberta Gastmeyer, Ready for 100% Coordinator
Suwannee St. Johns Sierra Club