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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Gainesville Chamber Releases Energy Competitiveness Report**  
*Recommends Policies to Promote Economic Growth and Prosperity*

GAINESVILLE, FL – The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce and Council for Economic Outreach are pleased to announce the release of **“A Gainesville Solution: The Energy Competitiveness Report.”** The four policy recommendations in this economic development report involve Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) and are as follows:

- 1) Peer Utility Cost Comparison: Benchmark GRU costs to Peer Mean/Average Cost
- 2) Fuel Adjustment Levelization Fund: Link Fund Cap to GRU Fuel Budget
- 3) General Fund Transfer: Remain Below GRU 6-Year Low of 9.0%
- 4) Governance: Create Appointed Utility Authority to govern GRU

“These reasonable policy recommendations are designed to help Gainesville remain a competitive community for sustainable economic development as it relates to overall energy costs,” said Mitch Glaeser, Chairman of the Chamber Board of Directors. “As a cornerstone asset, GRU supports essential City services and would benefit from a different governance structure and not a different owner. GRU plays an important role in our community and should not be sold.”

“Under the impressive leadership of N. David Flagg, former Mayor of Gainesville and State Representative, and Dr. David A. Denslow, Jr., retired University of Florida economist, our 12-member Energy Study Group took a deep dive to understand the dynamic environment GRU operates within,” further added Mr. Glaeser.

Energy Study Group members included Charles W. Anchors, Jr., North Florida Regional Healthcare; Dean R. Cheshire, Cheshire Companies; Ken Cornell, Bosshardt Realty; Rich Blaser, Infinite Energy; Chuck Clemons, Santa Fe College; Rosemary F. Fagler, Plum Creek; Mike Giampietro, Generation Wy; Joel Islam, Florida Food Service; Perry C. McGriff, Jr., McGriff, Fletcher, Johnson Insurance; and the Reverend Dr. N. LaMonte Newsome.

“The Gainesville region is the heart of Florida and is a great place to live, work and play. GRU is a vital asset for the City of Gainesville and essential in positioning this region as the global hub of talent, innovation and opportunity,” said Tim Giuliani, President & CEO, Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce and Council for Economic Outreach. “We can promote local economic growth and prosperity by ensuring businesses and entrepreneurs have a competitive business climate.”

The Chamber urges the City Commission to consider the four policy recommendations and adopt them as soon as possible.

[Click here to access the full report from the Chamber website.](#)

### ***About the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce***

*Formed in 1924, the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in the Gainesville area. Representing nearly 1,200 members that employ more than 70,000 employees, the Chamber firmly believes that thriving business builds a thriving community. The Chamber is 5-star accredited by the United States Chamber of Commerce, putting it in the top 1% of all Chambers nationwide. Learn more at [www.GainesvilleChamber.com](http://www.GainesvilleChamber.com) or call us at 352.334.7100.*

### ***Creating Opportunity Through Outreach...***

*The Council for Economic Outreach (CEO) is the official economic development agency in Alachua County. It attracts new business and investment to the Gainesville region and help existing businesses grow. CEO markets the assets of the region to the national and international business community. Please visit us at [www.GCEO.com](http://www.GCEO.com)*

### ***...and Advocacy***

*The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce advocates policies and promotes programs that help businesses thrive. Acting as non-partisan, we advocate on behalf of the interests of the business community at various levels of government. The Chamber actively engages elected officials and government staff on important issues fostering business growth and economic development. Please contact us at [PublicPolicy@GainesvilleChamber.com](mailto:PublicPolicy@GainesvilleChamber.com) for more information.*

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