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Legislation was proposed by Representative Debbie Mayfield in the 2014 Regular Legislative Session that would have put pressure on FMPA or its member cities, but none of them passed out of committee. So, in the waning hours of the 2014 Legislative Session, the County's lobbyist and others worked with the appropriations chairs in the Senate and House to include in the state budget a proviso for the Auditor General's office, authorizing an audit of "any entity created under s. 361.10, F.S." and further authorizing the Auditor General to pay \$200,000 for a subject-matter expert to assist with the audit. There was never any public scrutiny of this matter prior to approval. FMPA is not in fact created under section 361.10 Florida Statutes, though it is part of FMPA's statutory grant of authority, and there are other entities in Florida that could have also been considered for an audit under the "any entity" language of the proviso. Nonetheless, FMPA understands that the Auditor General's office inquired as to legislative intent, since it was not made clear in public meetings prior to adoption, and it was reported by the Auditor General's office that FMPA was the proviso's intended entity.

Further confirming the political motivation of this audit, two weeks after the Auditor General released the P&T Report, and before FMPA had the opportunity to submit its response, an Indian River County Commissioner, who reportedly stated that Indian River County was going to "destroy FMPA," delivered copies of the P&T Report to members of the Florida Legislature whose legislative districts include any of FMPA's 31 members. In addition, Indian River County and others took other actions to discuss the P&T Report with legislators and the media, resulting in numerous one-sided impressions of the Auditor General's preliminary and tentative findings. Sadly, through no fault of the Auditor General, due process and reasonable consideration have been compromised for FMPA and for audit protocols. Political operatives have damaged FMPA's reputation and prejudiced the public debate. The intended damage to FMPA has been done, even before the Auditor General's work can be completed.

Despite the political nature and outside-the-public influence that has been brought to bear to prejudice the Agency, FMPA's Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and staff are committed to a thorough review of the Auditor General's P&T Report. We look forward to the opportunity to improve business practices and policies at FMPA. We are proud of FMPA's accomplishments in providing competitive power supply and other services to municipal electric utilities since 1978.