

Huey, Lorilyn (UTC)

From: C Elizabeth Clark (lizdragoon63@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<automail@knowwho.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 11:17 AM
To: Records Management (UTC)
Subject: Public Comment on Docket # U-200281

Categories: LH

External Email

Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Living in North Spokane with many low-income families, our elders and our youth need reliable affordable residences with appropriate utilities for good health and independence. Many studies show community cost savings with greater housing independence. This pandemic lethal infection is not leaving our planet this year. All in our communities matter and need basic life support: appropriate shelter with necessary heat or cooling, safe drinking water, safety food, and transportation, education, and appropriate employment! Our county un-housed majority do NOT have safe shelter especially in our pandemic. I stand with you to request rapid reduction of this pandemic. In Spokane County, people want safe return to employment with a reliable income., not living in cars, parked in county parks or worse.

I am writing to ask the Utilities and Transportation Commission extend the moratorium on utility shut offs until at least September.

It is now clear: the moratorium saves lives. A recent study by the National Bureau of Economic Research showed that the coronavirus infection rates last year were 4.4% lower in communities that banned electricity and water service disconnections during the pandemic, while death rates from the disease were 7.4% lower.

Almost a year into the COVID crisis, it is clearer than ever that the effects of the pandemic are not going away anytime soon. We need to and act on people's needs instead of those of profitable utility companies. Right now, up to 2.2 million people in Washington ? almost one-third of the state ? could be struggling to pay for food, according to recent reports. You have the power to ensure that we don't compound their suffering by turning off their electricity, too.

Washington can be a state where everyone -- no matter their race, income, or where they live -- has access to electricity. This is a state where people's health and well being, not corporate profits, can drive policymakers' decisions. Utilities are more essential than ever to keep our communities healthy and safe. Together, we must make sure that Washingtonians can count on essential utilities throughout the pandemic and beyond.

Please, keep the lights on.

Sincerely,

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