

Chiles, Pam (UTC)

From: Julie Simpson (flash5442@hotmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com>
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Categories: PC

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Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Though I am not in need of assistance, many of my neighbors may well be. The options are not good choices either. Those with wood stoves need firewood or pellets which are also costly for heat. Those with kids need computer access so those children can access the online schooling required. If they can't afford electricity, how could they possibly afford internet access? There are no good solutions either way but please don't make losing electric power of feeding your family a choice.

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 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,

Julie Simpson
260 NE Snowcap Dr
Tahuya, WA 98588
flash5442@hotmail.com
(360) 710-6670

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.