

Chiles, Pam (UTC)

From: George Jay (geobjay@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:34 PM
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Subject: Public Comment on Docket # U-200281

Categories: PC

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Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Hi There! This is a great time to ponder govt/corp PR strategies! Communities and families are feeling the pinch! Their crisis realization that America's "Safety Net" is dangerously frayed urges action! It matters to me that millions of fellow human beings ARE confronted with stressful finances... They'd WELCOME forbearance from you thoughtful regulators and utilities until their economic panic eases... And... >>> How about envisioning an energized citizenry coming out of this Pandemic, plenty of us, creating a new economy that considers free time to play, embracing Mother Nature and supporting Sierra Club's enthusiasm for leisure away from man-made structures and restrictions??? How about that? I'm urging your outfit to immediately convene a board meeting to approve assisting the needy! I appreciate your attention to this worthwhile matter! AFFIRM PEACE!

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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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.