

From: [Robin Sissom \(robinsissom@hotmail.com\)](mailto:robinsissom@hotmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
To: [Records Management \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Docket # U-200281
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External Email

Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

As a teacher, I've had many students who come from low income families. I know that our school districts of Yakima County try to do their part to make sure those students have a breakfast and lunch every day. Even during this pandemic, the Administrations, and school staff have gone beyond what they are required to do to make the lives of their students a little normal. Please continue to help by not shutting off power to those families who have lost their jobs or have work hours shortened. Hopefully, now that Covid 19 vaccinations have ramped up, things will slowly go back towards normal. Everyone is so stressed with all that has been happening in our United States. Please don't add to that stress for our families.

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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