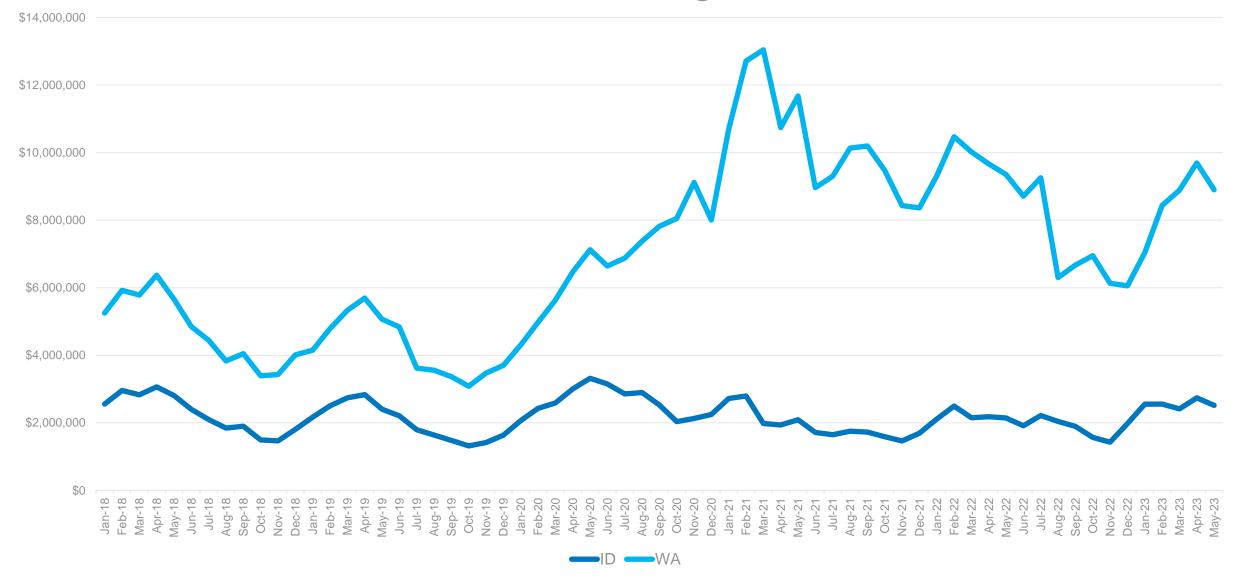


# Disconnection Moratorium Impacts June 23, 2023

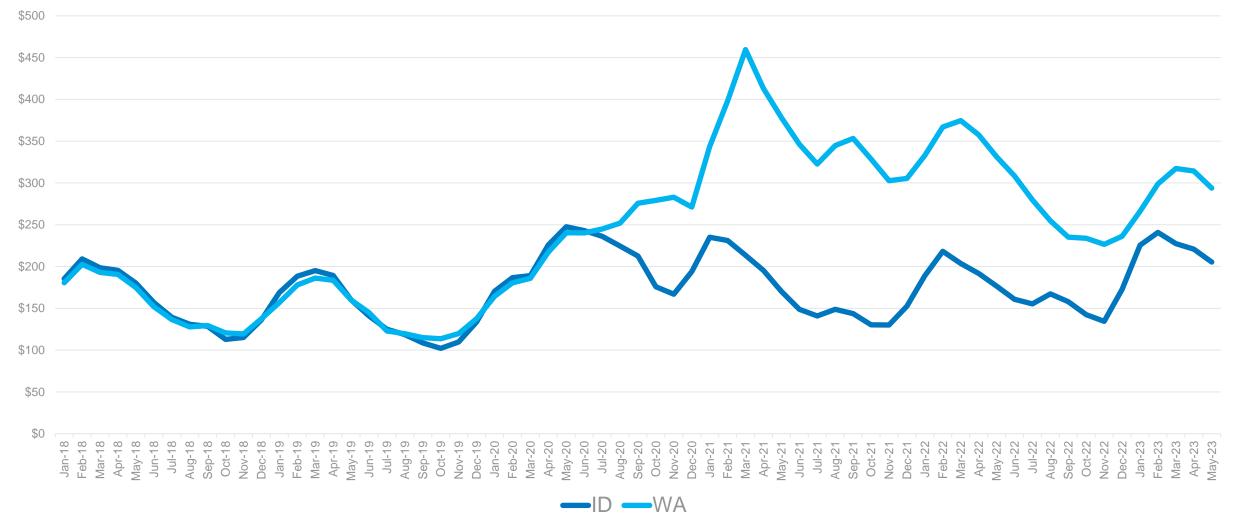
Shawn Bonfield, Sr. Manager of Regulatory Policy & Strategy

## Historical Residential Washington vs. Idaho Arrears





## Historical Residential Washington vs. Idaho Avgerage Past Due Amount





### **Equitable Customer Protections**

- Interest of all customers must be balanced with protections put in place for subset of customers who need them
- Many protections already in place
  - Disconnection Reduction Plans
  - Site visits for known low-income customers prior to remote disconnections and reduced windows for when disconnects may occur
  - Bill Discount Programs and arrearage manage programs
  - Flexible payment arrangements
  - Increased outreach and engagement
  - No disconnects during heat related alerts
- Look to Oregon for additional protections
  - Verification process for low-income customers
  - No deposits or late payment charges and waived reconnect fees for low-income customers
  - Extended past due notice timeline
  - Disconnection moratorium during extreme heat or cold and on poor air quality days



#### **Moratorium Alternatives**

- Alternatives 1, 2, and 6 are not possible to implement
  - We do not have access to individual household income
  - We do not have access to customers' other utility bills
  - We do not have access to demographic data at an individual household level
- Alternative 3 and 4 would be possible to implement
  - Would have similar effect as pandemic moratorium
- Alternative 5 is not necessary for larger customers
  - Low percentage of disconnection and not an issue for health and safety



#### **Effects if a Moratorium is Made Permanent**

- Long-term effect of increased arrears leading to increased level of bad debt recovered from all other customers
- Providing protection for customers who do not need it
- Potential incentive for customers who can pay choosing not to pay
- Prior obligation no longer applicable but customers may fall further and further behind with no way to get caught up
- At what point are utilities able to write off debts potential cash flow impact

