

## Huey, Lorilyn (UTC)

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**From:** Joseph Pallen (jpallen@roadrunner.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:00 AM  
**To:** Records Management (UTC)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Docket # U-200281

**Categories:** LH

External Email

Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

We are all struggling and it is time to show we care about communities. There are those who need help. Please be compassionate to those in need during this time of COVID and cold winter temperatures. We worry so much about our economy for survival, but forget there are those suffering right now. Please help them!

Please help them by asking the Utilities and Transportation Commission to 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,

Joseph Pallen  
1415 NW Clifford St  
Pullman, WA 99163  
jpallen@roadrunner.com  
(208) 874-2686

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](mailto:core.help@sierraclub.org) or (415) 977-5500.