

Huey, Lorilyn (UTC)

From: Susan Cutrona (colecutr@hotmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 4:31 PM
To: Records Management (UTC)
Subject: Public Comment on Docket # U-200281

External Email

Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

I urgently request that the Utilities and Transportation Commission continue the moratorium on utility shut offs until the Pandemic is under control. I am well aware of people who already struggle to have their most basic needs met.

I have a homeless adult daughter with a serious mental illness. She lived with me for most of five years, until 1/2/20, when I could no longer allow her to live with me. That caused her to become homeless. My daughter has, in addition to her primary mental illness, "low comprehension of her condition", as a Psychiatrist explained. This interferes with her ability to access resources. We do not currently have enough outreach workers and supportive housing to help my daughter acquire her most basic needs.

When I learn that people are being threatened with not having their basic needs met during a pandemic, I am deeply saddened. Lack of basic utilities will damage their health and possibly take their lives. I can only wonder, where is our humanity?

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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