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State Of WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

**From:** [Andrea Axel](#)  
**To:** [Danner, Dave \(UTC\)](#); [Rendahl, Ann \(UTC\)](#); [Balasbas, Jay \(UTC\)](#); [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** Comment regarding Docket U-200281  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:04:29 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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DOCKET U-200281

Dear Utilities and Transportation Commissioners,

Spark Northwest is a nonprofit that accelerates a just transition to clean energy in the Pacific Northwest. We work with communities to design and execute clean energy plans, focusing on programs that transfer wealth to historically disadvantaged groups. We recognize that systemic racism has caused a health and wealth gap, made more obvious and painful by the pandemic and its economic fallout.

Spark Northwest hears from our community partners that the current crisis is an all-hands-on-deck situation, where immediate basic human needs of shelter, food and safety are threatened. At a time like this, essential services such as power and water must be available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The cost of public services should be carried by those who can bear them with least harm.

We urge the Utilities and Transportation Commission to do everything in its power to ensure that people have access to stable, debt-free utility service during this pandemic and beyond. This includes:

- Extend the moratorium on utility shut-offs to at least April 30, or whenever all the counties in a utility's service territory have been in Phase 4 of Washington's Safe Start Plan for at least 60 days.
- No debt for poor and working class families
- Just payment plans for all utilities
- No late fees, disconnection fees, or reporting to credit agencies
- Ratepayers should not have to pay for all COVID costs during this global crisis -- utilities must consider cutting executive and/or shareholder pay to ensure people's basic health and safety.

Thank you,  
Andrea Axel



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