

Chiles, Pam (UTC)

From: Cheryl Hauskins (crowskims@hotmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
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To: Records Management (UTC)
Subject: Public Comment on Docket # U-200281

Categories: PC

External Email

Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

This matters to me because it affects members of my family, including a new infant son born with a heart condition and my son whose job and income and ability to pay bills has been greatly affected by covid Not only are my family members affected but all of our friends and neighbors. Seems like the energy companies have made enough money over the years to get thru ?these trying or uncertain times? or perhaps the CEOs are just worried about their \$1,000,000 commission? Especially since rates go up in winter when people need it most and are hardest hit! Please give everyone a break! If you have to tss as me it as a loss I?m sure it can be a tax write off for you!

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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