

From: [Emma Bartholomew \(emma@bartholomew.com\) Sent You a Personal Message](mailto:emma@bartholomew.com)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: No more utility profits over people (Dockets UE-200780, UG-200782, UE-200407, UG-200408, UE-200234, UG-200479, UG-200264)
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Dear Washington Utilities Commission,

It is important to remember that people are suffering from lack of funds due to Covid-19 and will not be able to handle higher utility rates this winter. Please do not raise your rates.

As the COVID-19 crisis enters its worst month yet, we urge you to reject the utilities' deferred accounting petitions and issue a statement calling for shared sacrifice from the utilities during this unprecedented time. Utilities are not guaranteed profit and are not exhibiting any signs of financial trouble from the pandemic. Yet these deferred accounting petitions will virtually guarantee hundreds of millions in profit for shareholders and executives without asking for anything in return.

It's critical that the UTC does everything it can to protect people suffering from illness, unemployment, and underemployment. I am asking commissioners to not force customers to pay for these extraordinary COVID costs -- the fees, mounting debt, interest payments that most deeply impact low-income communities and communities of color. Businesses and families across the state have already suffered enough. Massive corporate utility profits should be used to pay for COVID costs for the families most in need. Everyone needs to share in the sacrifice.

Please reject the utilities' deferred accounting petitions. They are too broad, include reimbursement for discriminatory fees that the utilities have been prohibited from collecting by Governor Inslee, and don't require the utilities to track savings as closely as they track costs. We urge you to put people before utility profit, and require utilities to share in the sacrifice demanded of us all.

Sincerely,

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