



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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October 8, 2020

Mark L. Johnson
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop S.E.
Lacey, WA 98303

RE: Commission Staff's Request to Extend Date in Which to Open an Inquiry into the Use of Independent Contractors in The Household Goods Moving Industry

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On April 9, 2020, the Washington Movers Conference (WMC) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a letter petitioning the Commission for a declaratory order (Petition). WMC requested that the Commission clarify whether the Commission's rules authorize regulated household goods carriers to contract with third parties to perform regulated services such as packing, loading, transporting, unloading, and unpacking household goods. The Commission docketed the petition as TV-200348.

On May 8, the Commission entered in that docket an order declining to enter the requested order after determining that the WMC failed to make the showing necessary under RCW 34.05.240 and WAC 480-07-930 for the entry of such an order.

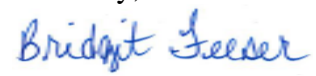
The Commission, however, noted that the use of independent contractors in the household goods moving industry has been, and continues to be, a contentious issue that requires further guidance from the Commission. Accordingly, it resolved to open an inquiry in a new docket by December 31, 2020, to consider whether a rulemaking or policy statement is the appropriate method to clarify and resolve issues raised by the use of independent contractors.

Commission staff requests that the Commission extend the date for opening the inquiry to September 30, 2021. Staff requires this additional time due to the economic uncertainty created by the ongoing COVID-19, the increased workload imposed on Commission staff by the pandemic, and constraints imposed by ongoing state furloughs resulting from the pandemic. The requested extension would allow staff and stakeholders to adjust to working in a pandemic and would benefit the overall process.

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If you have any questions, I can be reached at (360) 664-1111 or Bridgit.feeseer@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Bridgit Feeseer
Assistant Director, Consumer Protection