From:	Peter Heymann
To:	UTC DL Records Center
Subject:	Docket # U-200281
Date:	Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:28:55 PM

Dear Utilities and Transportation Commission Washington State,

Utilities and Transport team,

Please do not terminate utilities for people who have been financially devastated by COVID. It simply makes no sense on any level.

#1: If we are going to protect public health generally, It seems pretty clear that throwing people into the cold and dark (or worse, out of their homes) is not a good choice.

#2: Shutting off the vital services you provide also imposes huge new financial burdens on Washington State taxpayers. The costs of transitioning newly-homeless people into shelters and eventually new housing is stunningly large. Add to that the additional costs of emergency medical services. New medical expenses for unhoused people is mindbogglingly large next to the cost of picking up utilities costs for several months or even a couple years. By comparison, deferring invoices, or even shifting the cost of unpaid utilities to taxpayers, is a huge bargain.

Finally, shutoffs are certainly not a good moral option for any of us. Let's do the right thing all around.

SO: I am calling on 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 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.

Many thanks for your efforts to help us all pull through this mess.

Peter Heymann
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Regards,
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