

09/18/20 11:36

State Of WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

From: [Meg O'Hara](#)
To: [Danner, Dave \(UTC\)](#); [Rendahl, Ann \(UTC\)](#); [Balasbas, Jay \(UTC\)](#); [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Comment regarding Docket #U-200281
Date: Friday, September 18, 2020 12:11:37 PM

Dear Commissioners,

This is a comment regarding Docket # U-200281.

At 350 Seattle, we know that people are at the heart of our work, fueling us as we fight for climate justice and preserving a liveable world. However, access to basic human needs are being threatened, and we are standing up to ensure that Washington can be a state where everyone -- no matter their race, income, or where they live -- have access to electricity and clean water.

We are at a pivotal moment in history- in the middle of a recession, a pandemic, wildfires, and a changing global climate. This is the time to come together and ensure people have what they need. Instead, however, access to utilities is threatened for large numbers of people in this state. Together, we must make sure that Washingtonians can count on essential utilities to keep everyone healthy and safe.

Our goal throughout the pandemic -- and the economic shock and disruption that will continue in its wake -- is for every Washington resident to be able to count on uninterrupted, stable, and debt-free utility service.

Our organization is 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 at least April 30, 2021 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,

Meg O'Hara, on behalf of 350 Seattle

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she/hers

Staff/Operations & Finance

350seattle.org

I acknowledge and honor the people – past, present, and future- of the [Duwamish](#), [Tulalip](#), [Muckleshoot](#), [Suquamish](#) and other tribal nations on whose traditional lands I live and work. They are still here, and their voices are essential to our planet's future.

If you also occupy Duwamish land, consider paying [Real Rent](#).