From: A Irene Smith (analiceirene@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
To: UTC DL Records Center
Subject: Docket # U-200281
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020 10:21:14 AM

Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC),

I was raised in a home run by a single mother, one of 5 kids under 15. She worked 2 full-time jobs to support our household, and her biggest concern besides the mortgage payment was to never have our electricity shut off. This was a big stress for her, especially as the winter months got closer.

No family should have to live with this fear. Washington State already has enough problems due to our regressive tax structure. Access to affordable utilities should be a right that every one of our residents is entitled to, along with clean water. It should not be yet another opportunity for large corporations to abuse and take advantage of our hard-working families.

Please put people over profits, hold these large out-of-state companies accountable and don't leave our residents in the dark during these unprecedented and uncertain times. The time is ripe to make changes that will benefit the many, not the few who don't live and raise their families in our beautiful state.

More than six months into the COVID-19 crisis, it is clearer than ever that the effects of the pandemic are not going away anytime soon. We need to act accordingly. It is imperative that our leaders pass the protections working people need, starting with debt relief, to get and stay well in this pandemic and beyond. Washington can be a state where everyone - no matter their race, income, or where they live -- has access to electricity and clean water. 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.

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 at least April 30, 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-19 costs during this global crisis -- utilities must consider cutting executive and/or shareholder pay to ensure people's basic health and safety.

Sincerely,

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This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.