From: Sherry Bupp (sherry_bupp@outlook.com) Sent You a Personal Message
To: UTC DL Records Center
Subject: Docket # U-200281
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020 3:51:14 PM

Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC),

So many Washingtonians have lost jobs and businesses - through no fault of their own - to the Covid-19 emergency. The necessary social distancing has left many families either without incomes, or dependent upon unemployment compensation, which was reduced dramatically when the federal program expired in August.

As the school year and wintertime approach, families find electricity even more essential than ever to life, health, and learning. Since many schools are still utilizing distance learning, families must have access to computers and the internet to make schooling available to their children.

These parents are doing the best they can to keep their homes safe and workable, but the threat of having their utilities shut off adds to an already stressful situation. Please commit to the protection Washington families need, including debt relief, a moratorium on utility shut-offs, and other assistance for the duration of the Covid-19 crisis.

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.