From: Sara Wyman (wymansc@shattered-realms.com) Sent You a Personal Message
To: UTC DL Records Center
Subject: Docket # U-200281
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020 4:49:18 PM

Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC),

Dear Washington UTC,

This is a rough time for everyone--including for employees of WA UTC, so I am sure you will sympathize with the plight of your fellow citizens here.
To survive, we all need some basics: shelter, food, water, power, community sanitation services. Our whole community feels the impact when a large number of our neighbors are deprived of these necessities--due, during this pandemic--to not having enough money to cover the costs of their basic needs.
I surely hope you will let the utility bills of the needy among us "ride" during our national health emergency. This is not only the ethical course to take, but also the most pragmatic re: health and the economy (it's called "enlightened self-interest"). Lack of water, power (for heating or cooling) and sanitation can cause larger outbreaks of illness, death, and the spread of sickness to the whole community.

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.