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State Of WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

From: [Simon Bakke](#)
To: [Danner, Dave \(UTC\)](#); [Rendahl, Ann \(UTC\)](#); [Balasbas, Jay \(UTC\)](#); [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Docket # U-200281 - Families need debt-free utilities
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:04:12 AM

Dear Commissioners,

This comment regards Docket # U-200281.

I am writing to you from Bellingham, one of the [top 10 most expensive midsize cities](#) for homebuyers in America. Just since being a college student up here from 2012-2016, I've seen rent skyrocket to prices I could barely have afforded as a relatively privileged, middle-class student.

People in this community have not seen wages rise in proportion to several years of staggering rent increases, and with bills amid a pandemic where many have been set back months in earned income, people are suffering.

I am calling on the Utilities and Transportation Commission to do everything within its power to make sure 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 costs during this global crisis -- utilities must consider cutting executive and/or shareholder pay to ensure people's basic health and safety.

Thank you for your time and service,

Simon Bakke
Bellingham, 98225