



Friends *of the* San Juans

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COMMISSION

Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Submitted via email: ddanner@utc.wa.gov, arendahl@utc.wa.gov, jbalasbas@utc.wa.gov,
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RE: Docket # U-200281

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments regarding Docket # U-200281. Friends of the San Juans mission-driven work includes building thriving communities and ensuring that people have access to clean water and renewable energy. Friends of the San Juans stands for the health, safety, opportunity, and basic human rights of all people. It is critical that Washington State ensures that everyone — no matter their race, income, or where they live — has access to essential utilities.

We urge the Utilities and Transportation Commission to ensure that every Washington resident is able to count on uninterrupted, stable, and debt-free utility service throughout the pandemic — and the economic shock and disruption that will continue in its wake.

At this time, while wildfires rage, it is clear that *access* to utilities is itself threatened for large numbers of people in this state. Utilities are more essential than ever to keep our communities healthy and safe.

Friends of the San Juans calls 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 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 attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

Lovel Pratt

Marine Protection and Policy Director

protecting and restoring the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature