

**From:** [Rie Shintani](#)  
**To:** [UTC DL Records Center](#)  
**Subject:** Please put Short and Long-term Protections for utility customers in place: docket number U-200281  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 4:40:03 PM

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Hello UTC Members,

I am writing to urge you to put short and long-term protections in place for utility customers following the Governor's moratorium on utility shut-offs expiration. Households with past-due utility bills could see all of their bills come due at once, or see their energy, water, internet, or phone service shut off. I believe that our access to these basic services should not be determined by our race, our income, our gender, our ability, our citizenship status, or the language we speak at home.

I support the following demands from the Climate Justice Team at Puget Sound Sage:

**We want an indefinite moratorium on utility shut-offs.** The pandemic will likely extend beyond this year. Economic recovery will surely take longer. We need to ensure that all Washingtonians have access to utilities for the duration of the pandemic and through recovery.

**Utility debt erasure for poor and low-income households that would erase utility debt accrued since the start of the pandemic and through recovery.**

**Institute 4-6% of income arrearage payment plans for households.** "Arrearage" is a term referring to money that is owed or overdue. We're advocating for payment plans where households with overdue utility bills pay a maximum of 4-6% of their monthly income to their utility bill. After 12 months of consecutive payments, the rest of the debt would be forgiven.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Rie Shintani

Received  
Records Management  
06/24/2020 08:18  
State Of WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION