

From: [Rebecca Lavigne](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: U-200281 - Put long-term protections in place for utility customers
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 9:12:13 AM

Dear Utilities & Transportation Commission Members:

Utility service is critical to the health, safety and well being of all Washingtonians. The health and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have shined a light on -- and exacerbated -- inequitable access to these services for poor and low-income households, who are proportionately Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

I ask that the UTC:

- **Develop 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.
- **Pass 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.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Lavigne
Seattle, WA 98115

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