

Chiles, Pam (UTC)

From: pdsampson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Paul Sampson
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Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2020 4:26 PM
To: UTC DL Records Center
Subject: Comments on Dockets Puget Sound Energy UE-200780 & UG-200782, Avista UE-200407 & UG-200408, Pacific Power UE-200234, Cascade Natural Gas UG-200479, NW Natural UG-200264

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Dear UTC Commissioners,

We urge you to reject the utilities' deferred accounting petitions and issue a statement calling for shared sacrifice from the utilities.

The utilities are not guaranteed profit and are not exhibiting any signs of financial trouble from the pandemic. These deferred accounting petitions are the utilities' attempt at guaranteeing hundreds of millions in profit for shareholders and executives without making an offer of shared sacrifice to Washington residents during a historic public health and economic crisis. The deferred accounting petitions are too broad, don't require the utilities to track savings just as closely as they track costs, and include discriminatory fees that the utilities have been prohibited from collecting by Governor Inslee.

Year after year, Puget Sound Energy, Avista, PacifiCorp, Northwest Natural, and Cascade Natural Gas make hundreds of millions in profit. They collectively paid \$446 million to their shareholders and top executives in 2019 alone (1). Meanwhile, Latinx, Indigenous, Pacific Islander, and Black households are suffering from COVID-19 at disproportionately high rates (2) and nearly a million Washingtonians are receiving food assistance, up 17% from February. (3)

I want to note that I am not anti-capitalist or socialist. I support this argument because it represents justice and raising the overdue recognition of the costs of the pandemic that these sectors of our society are bearing. Rejecting the utilities' petitions is the right thing to do.

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(1) According to 2019 filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission on dividends and executive compensation.

(2)

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(3)

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Sincerely,

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