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State Of WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

September 30, 2020

To: The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

**RE: Comment regarding Docket # U-200281**

Dear Commissioners,

Shift Zero is an alliance of green building, energy efficiency, and climate action businesses, organizations, and certification programs, working together to promote the equitable adoption of zero carbon buildings at scale in Washington State. We recognize that there can be no equity in access to healthy, affordable, and climate-friendly housing without emergency relief for BIPOC and low income communities in Washington bearing the brunt of the compounding public health and socio-economic crises we are facing.

The impacts of COVID-19 are real and growing: widespread job losses; residents struggling to pay for housing, utilities, and other basic needs; and a health system buckling under immense pressure.

**A critical step in emergency relief is to ensure people have access to stable, debt-free utility service during this pandemic and beyond.**

Shift Zero calls on the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to:

- 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.
- Eliminate utility debt for poor and working class families
- Establish just payment plans for customers who need them
- Not allow utilities to charge late fees, deposits, or reconnection fees, or report customers to credit agencies

We urge you to support immediate and long-term stability and environmental justice for communities in crisis in Washington State.

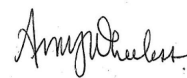
In addition, we urge the UTC to maintain and expand existing utility energy efficiency programs. As we saw with the recent wildfire smoke, residents living in homes without adequate weatherization and air sealing are susceptible to poor indoor air quality. As the UTC supports these vital consumer protections above, it is also essential to maintain critical long-term programs that both lower energy burdens and protect health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Smith  
Steering Committee Co-Chair



Amy Wheelless  
Steering Committee Co-Chair



Andrew Lee  
Steering Committee Co-Chair



**Member Organizations:**

American Institute of Architects Seattle  
American Institute of Architects Washington Council  
A&R Solar  
ArchEcology  
Climate Solutions  
Ecotope  
Emerald Cities Seattle  
FSI Engineers  
International Living Future Institute  
ILFI South Sound Collaborative  
NW Energy Coalition  
Passive House Institute of the United States  
Seattle 2030 District  
Spark Northwest  
Sustainable Connections  
Washington Environmental Council  
2050 Institute  
350 Seattle  
350 Spokane