

From: [Scott Fortman](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Comments on Docket U-200281
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:27:01 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I write to you today to ensure that Washington can be a state where everyone -- no matter their race, income, or where they live -- has access to electricity and clean water.

Our goal throughout the pandemic -- and the economic shock and disruption that will continue in its wake -- is for every Washington resident to be able to count on uninterrupted, stable, and debt-free utility service.

At this moment, it is clear that access to essential utility service is threatened for large numbers of people in our state. Utilities are more essential than ever to keep our communities healthy and safe. Together, we must ensure Washingtonians can count on essential utilities.

I am calling on you as commissioners of 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:

- Keep Washington families connected to power for the duration of the pandemic and through economic recovery. This includes, at a minimum, guaranteeing service until all counties in a utility's service district are in Phase 4 of Governor Inslee's Safe Start Plan.
- Support low-income families by approving staff's proposal for each utility to provide up to \$2,500 in bill assistance to households earning up to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Require utilities pay their fair share. This includes but is not limited to: prohibiting deferred accounting petitions regarding late payment fees and reconnection charges that utilities are legally prohibited from collecting during the pandemic by Governor Inslee's Proclamation.

Sincerely,
Scott Fortman
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