

3103 31st Court SE
Olympia, WA 98501
October 15, 2020

Re: Docket #200281

To the Members of the Utility and Transportation Commission:

My name is Kathleen Saul and my husband and I have been Puget Sound Energy customers for over 30 years. I also have a PhD in Energy and Environmental Policy.

Puget Sound Energy's (hereafter PSE) own web page ethics page informs us that

"While doing our part in the communities we live in and serve, we hold ourselves and our suppliers to strict ethical standards. Our ethics and compliance program covers a broad range of topics but can be summarized into one simple sentence: Do what is right." (<https://www.pse.com/about-us/our-ethics-and-goals>)

PSE also writes that among their company goals is to

"Be a good neighbor:

Lead, protect and improve our natural gas and electric service, promote energy efficiency initiatives, encourage corporate giving and embrace community involvement."

Do what is right. Be a good neighbor.

In the time of a global pandemic, high rates of unemployment, and families struggling to put food on the table, let alone pay their utility bills, I ask, "What is right? What does it mean to be a good neighbor?"

First and foremost, it means we are all in this together. It means that PSE leadership and the investment management companies that now own PSE all share in the good times AND the bad, the up-side AND the down. In the past they have reaped the profits from owning an electric and gas utility. Now they need to stand by their own statements and help out and give back, just like good neighbors do. And not just the proverbial cup of sugar. The scale of the pandemic and its economic and social ramifications surely invite community involvement and corporate giving like no other time in history. It's time they gave their fair share.

I am lucky to have a job. However, I have taken a pay cut to keep that job. The owners and leadership of PSE could also take a pay cut and donate those funds to help out those in our communities who cannot afford their utility bills, to prevent them from going deeper into debt. Just think of what that would mean for everyone involved. A good neighbor would do that. It is time for PSE to put people ahead of profits.

PSE also needs to work with Low-income or Energy Assistance Advisory Groups to implement bill payment and arrearage assistance programs that truly meet the needs of marginalized communities. PSE needs to provide zip code level data on shutoffs and arrearages so that community-based groups can combine that data with available census information and health data to assist in getting the right kind of help to the right people. We need to work together, not apart, and surely not against each other during these unusual times. Neighbors come together in times of crisis, when the trees come down in

winter storms and the lights go out, or when a family member suffers from a debilitating illness. Like the good neighbor they claim to be, PSE needs to work with community members, groups, and agencies to help those most impacted get through this crisis.

For over thirty years my husband and I have been paying our bills and thus contributing to the profits made by PSE. I think it's about time we had a say in what PSE does with those profits. We say that this pandemic calls for a redistribution of the profits, a sharing of the wealth, to help those in need. Because that is the right thing to do.

Thank you,

Dr. Kathleen M. Saul, Ph.D.