



February 6, 2006

**DOCKET # TC-020497**

Carole Washburn  
Executive Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
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**Re: TC-020497 NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS January 11, 2006**

Dear Ms. Washburn:

I was disappointed to read of the decision of the Commission as reported by you in the above referenced document. My disappointment is on many levels. I had hopes that after the stakeholder meeting with the Commission last April, that we were perhaps on the road to constructive reform, particularly with regard to rates and the regulation thereof. Apparently this is not to be as the Commission has chosen to ignore this most important facet of WAC reform in the current rule making process.

I feel that the current proposal is inadequate for the following reasons:

The CR-101 specifically called for rate reform;  
The current process has taken nearly four years and does not address the main issue;  
The Commission has chosen to have no further dialog with the regulated parties prior to issuing the CR-102 excluding rate reforms;  
After nearly four years of efforts, the draft reforms are being characterized as "housekeeping issues";  
The changes in internal rule making procedures at WUTC work to exclude the regulated from having meaningful input to staff regarding the issues;  
If history is any indicator, we, the regulated, cannot look forward to any meaningful rate reforms before the year 2010.

If the Commission is sincere in its pledge to "start a new rulemaking inquiry to consider the rules for rate setting.", we would expect to see a request from staff or the Commission of its own volition, for the opening of such an inquiry made within the next sixty days followed by a CR-101 very shortly thereafter. To delay the process any further would only serve to aggravate our current distrust of the process.

Thank you,

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