

Dear Commissioners,

I am very concerned about access to utilities in the coming months. COVID-19 has had devastating public health and economic consequences across the Commonwealth, and many people are experiencing unemployment/underemployment, higher utility bills from staying at home, and other economic stresses. Access to heat, electricity, and water service is crucial for maintaining a safe, healthy, livable home, especially during a global pandemic.

I'm writing to urge the Commission to extend the current protections on utility shutoffs beyond March 31, 2021 for all Pennsylvanians currently protected by Phase II of the moratorium. Customers should know they will have access to essential utilities for the rest of the pandemic.

Additionally, I ask that the Commission develop a just and equitable plan to forgive utility debt. The financial impacts of this pandemic have disproportionately hit the most vulnerable residents of our state. For Pennsylvanians who have suffered during the pandemic to recover economically, they must not be bogged down by utility debt.

Sincerely,

Zach Lytle, 317 North Chester Road, Swarthmore PA, 19081