

Dear Commissioners,

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 myself live in a low-income household and understand the importance of heat to being able to maintain health—something so important as COVID rates continue to rise.

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 remain protected throughout the duration of the pandemic, and we can be sure that the pandemic will not be over by the end of March.

Additionally, I ask that the Commission develop a just and equitable plan to forgive utility debt. For Pennsylvanians who have suffered during the pandemic to recover economically, they must not be bogged down by utility debt.

Sincerely,

Maria Ralenkotter

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PECO and Philadelphia Gas Works Customer