

VIA E-FILE

August 18, 2020

The Honorable Chairman Brown Dutrieuille
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105

**Re: Public Utility Service Termination Proclamation of Disaster Emergency
Docket No. M-2020-3019244**

Dear Chairman Brown Dutrieuille:

We are writing to call on the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to continue the current rule halting utility shut offs for vulnerable Pennsylvanians during the pandemic.

Pennsylvanians from across the Commonwealth and all walks of life are facing unprecedented financial challenges during the coronavirus pandemic, and the threat of having one or more of their utilities shut off would only exacerbate the day to day challenges facing Pennsylvania residents. Having access to basic utilities like electricity, gas, water and heat makes our homes safe and habitable and are critical for Pennsylvania families to stay safe during the pandemic.

Without basic utility service like water and sewage, Pennsylvania families cannot wash their hands, sanitize surfaces, or bathe; without gas and electricity, Pennsylvania families cannot cook food, or heat and cool their homes; without electricity to connect to the internet, Pennsylvania families cannot work and their children cannot participate in school. These services are essential to keeping Pennsylvanians safe in their homes.

For these reasons we urge the PUC to maintain its policy prohibiting companies from shutting off utilities for vulnerable Pennsylvanians while the COVID Emergency order remains in place.

Respectfully submitted,

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On behalf of the undersigned members of PennPIRG

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