

Dear Commissioners,

Utilities are a human right and necessary to survive, but they are not treated like one... 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. People that lost their jobs can't make up this income, so they shouldn't be expected to pay it off after the moratorium is lifted. 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 need to remain protected throughout the duration of the pandemic - this is life or death. Climate justice is central to the fight for utility justice and economic justice.

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. These customers didn't cause this pandemic, so they shouldn't have to carry this debt with them because of a lack of public intervention

Sincerely,

Brooke Garcher, 1011 Clinton St Apt 3, Philadelphia PA 19107, PECO Customer