

Dear Commissioners,

COVID-19 hasn't stopped infecting my friends and neighbors, and the utility shutoffs shouldn't end until we're all vaccinated! 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. My next-door neighbor lost his job and had to rely on others to help print out the piles of documents necessary to apply for LIHEAP and other programs. Even with that help, he and so many others in Philadelphia and across the state are still struggling, and their utility debt is just getting larger and larger as time goes on.

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.

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. Our neighbors and neighborhoods won't be able to recover from the pandemic if they're stuck paying bills that they accrued through no fault of their own. PUC has to be a leader in this moment, and that means extending the moratorium and making a plan to forgive the debt of its customers across the state.

Sincerely,

Rachel Mulbry, 135 S. 49th St, Philadelphia 19139, PECO & PGW customer