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February 15, 2024

via Electronic Filing

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street, Filing Room
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Initiative to Review and Revise the Existing Low-Income Usage Reduction
Program (LIURP) Regulations at 52 Pa. Code §§ 58.1-58.18
Docket No. L-2016-2557886

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Please accept for filing the Joint Reply Comments of the Commission on Economic Opportunity and Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force in regard to the above referenced matter. If you need anything further to effect filing, please advise.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph L. Vallo

JLV/jar
encl.

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

INITIATIVE TO REVIEW AND REVISE THE :
EXISTING LOW-INCOME USAGE REDUCTION: DOCKET NO. L-2016-2557886
PROGRAM (LIURP) REGULATIONS AT 52 PA. :
CODE §§58.1-58.18 :

**JOINT REPLY COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY AND PENNSYLVANIA WEATHERIZATION PROVIDERS TASK
FORCE**

I. INTRODUCTION

These reply comments are being submitted jointly by the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) and the Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force (Task Force). These reply comments will support various positions taken by other interested parties to this proceeding. Support for those positions should not be taken as opposition to other issues not addressed herein.

Further, in their Joint Comments, CEO and the Task Force opposed proposed changes to the regulations that would preclude consideration of LIURP funding in rate cases and would instead limit LIURP funding to USEEP proceedings. Nearly all of the commenting gas and electric companies, and their association, the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, supported the proposed change to limit LIURP funding issues to USEEP proceedings. These Reply Comments will not address the position of the utilities but instead incorporates by reference the previously filed comments of CEO and the Task Force in response.

II. REPLY COMMENTS

CEO and the Task Force support the following:

A. OCA'S AND CAUSE-PA'S SUGGESTED REVISION TO THE DEFINITION OF 'LIURP BUDGET'

The Commission proposes the following definition of LIURP budget “[t]he expected cost of providing program services in a given year, as approved in a USECP proceeding.” Annex A, 52 Pa. Code § 58.2. CEO and the Task Force supports the suggestions of OCA and CAUSE-PA to remove “as approved in a USECP proceeding” in that its inclusion would limit consideration of LIURP budgets to only USECP proceedings. As indicted in their joint comments, CEO and the Task Force oppose the proposed preclusion of addressing LIURP budgets in rate cases.

B. CAUSE-PA'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE COMMISSION PRIORITIZE THE USE OF CBOs AS THE ENERGY SUPPLIER OF CHOICE

CEO and the Task Force share CAUSE-PA's concern that various proposals throughout the proposed regulation undervalue the role of community-based organizations in delivering LIURP services in their communities. Further, because the proposed changes would undervalue the role of CBOs, those changes would violate the legislative mandates under both the Gas and Electric Choice Acts that the Commission “shall encourage the use of community based organizations that have the necessary technical and administrative experience to be the direct provider of services or programs which reduce energy consumption or otherwise assist low income customers to afford electric [or gas] service.”

CEO and the Task Force join in the comments and suggested revisions to the proposed regulation as set forth by CAUSE-PA in sections B, G & H of CAUSE-PA's comments.

C. CAUSE-PA'S PROPOSAL THAT UNSPENT LIURP FUNDS SHALL BE CARRIED OVER TO THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM YEAR

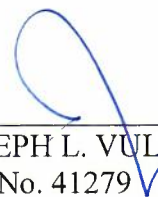
CEO and the Task Force supports the proposed revision of section 58.4(d.1) to the following:

(d.1) Unspent LIURP funds. A public utility shall annually reallocate unspent LIURP funds to SUPPLEMENT the LIURP budget for the following program year unless an alternate use is approved by the Commission in a USECP proceeding.

D. CAUSE-PA'S PROPOSAL THAT LANGUAGE BE RETAINED THAT WOULD PREVENT LANDLORDS FROM RAISING RENTS OR EVICTING TENANTS FOR ONE YEAR AFTER LIURP MEASURES ARE PROVIDED

CEO and the Task Force fully adopt and join in Section K of CAUSE-PA's comments in which it suggests that language be retained that would protect low-income tenants from an increase in rent and eviction for one year after LIURP measures are provided. This is WAP mandate and should remain the case in these regulations.

Respectfully submitted,



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