From: Kirby, Lillian
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] :
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:13:00 PM

Dear PUC Clerk,

During this time of economic and health crisis, with folks getting laid off their jobs every day and businesses closing, we need to recognize that paying utility bills is getting less and less possible for many people in the state.

For this reason we need to take dramatic action. I am calling for you to support a **permanent moratorium on termination.** We also need the **immediate restoration** of all people who have been shutoff, **with no down payment.** Finally, we need the immediate implementation of a Percentage Income Payment Plan, legislation submitted by the George Wiley Center several years in a row.

Please, we have the opportunity now to adopt radical solutions to protect our most vulnerable community members. It's unrealistic to proceed with business-as-usual right now. Please do the right thing for low-income Rhode Islanders. Show that you are a public servant with the interests of our community in mind. Your constituents are counting on you to do the right thing, and help prevent trauma, and save lives.

--

Lillian Kirby '20
A.B. Urban Studies
A.B. French and Francophone Studies
lillian_kirby@brown.edu | (203) 824 7448

From: Christine Muller
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc: GEORGE WILEY CENTER
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : An urgent request
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 11:28:08 AM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

I am a US citizen and a resident of Kingston RI. I am writing to you to and the PUC to ask you
not to terminate utilities during this state of emergency and for the unemployed and low-income households anytime afterwards, to restore emergency utility of all unemployed or low-income households without any down payment, and to implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers.

This time of crisis reminds us what it really means to be a human being and motivates us for compassionate and fair actions.

With much appreciation for considering my request,
Christine Muller

From: WILLIAM KLING
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Ban on shutoffs
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:42:49 AM

Hi, this is a great idea, while it won't affect me personally. But I'm concerned it doesn't include telecom services. With lots of people having to telecommute, home-school, get the most-recent news, or use telemedicine, losing their internet/cable/cell service could be disastrous. Thank you for your attention. Peace and health, William S. Kling

From: Michael Roles
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Comment, Re: DOCKET NO. 5022
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:34:39 PM

To Lucy Massaro and members of the RI Public Utilities Commission -

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Docket No. 5022. Please see below:

The current pandemic we are experiencing is an unprecedented moment of crisis that none of us have experienced within our own lifetimes. This moment is greatly threatening and forcing grave risk on the health, well-being, and economic welfare of residents in Rhode Island. Importantly, these risks transcend our own political borders.

This moment requires us to consider the important context within which we are living:

1) There is so much that we don't know about the disease, its impacts, contagion, and viral behavior. This is forcing everyone to take our response one day at a time, as new information and data comes in. In short: *the virus is setting the timelines for us*. **Setting any deadline on utility relief for ratepayers at this time is arbitrary**.

2) This moment is bringing about an unprecedented exponential increase in the vulnerability of residents and small business owners. As more and more continue to lose their income, everyone at this time needs the precious little resources they have to survive and follow the public health guidance of experts and decision makers.

3) This moment is also exposing the shortcomings within our economic and social safeguards. With the amount of time forced upon us to end the pandemic, this is also a time to confront our shortcomings in public protections. This is the time to capture good data, while examining and reconsidering the policies that are needed to protect vulnerable ratepayers.

With the context above, I respectfully request the RI Public Utilities Commission to implement the following:

- A moratorium on shutoff of utilities during the state of emergency and for the unemployed or low-income household afterward.
- Emergency utility (electric, gas, water and sewer) restoration for all unemployed or low-income households without any down payment.
- Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Michael Roles
Warwick, RI

From:	Angel
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Comments Regarding PUC Issued Order No. 23786
Date:	Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:35:47 PM

03/25/2020

Dear Luly Massaro,

My name is Angel Lopez and I am a resident of Providence, RI. I am writing you today to urge the Public Utilities Commission to suspend all Utility shut-offs during the COVID19 Emergency period. If the economy is what is important to the Governor and the Banks, a healthy population is essential and necessary. Essentials like heat, electricity, and clean running water for all residents is not only vital to flatten the peak of the cases, but also to get the economy moving again. These are the restaurant workers, CNA's, home and nursing home care providers, custodians, delivery drivers,bus drivers, volunteers, and those that provided frontline support to the homeless and domestic abuse victims, etc.

A Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) like the George Wiley Center advocates for is also a necessity to rebuild after the outbreak. We as a state can not depend on National Grid or other private companies to lead our legislators plans on what is important for our economy. These corporations have received tax cuts at Federal and State levels. They have never taken our safety and health into consideration and continue to put profits over their own workers. None of those companies have come forward to donate funds to essential workers or offered to lend assets to flatten the spike. Yet they are waiting for a bailout from the Federal government for executive bonuses.

Please restore utilities to all households that have been shut-off. We can not forget about those undergoing hardships even before the outbreak. If all of those folks contracted the virus many of our health care workers can contract the virus also. Do the obvious and be human. Do what is best for all the residents of this state and not the corporations that abuse and profit off of under served communities. I have complained a few times in the past year about a corporation currently abusing my neighborhood. Public health is public safety. As the George Wiley Center of RI is asking, "place a permanent moratorium against utility terminations and emergency restoration without any down payment for all low-income and unemployed households".

Sincerely,

Angel Lopez
Providence, RI

Sent with ProtonMail [protonmail.com] Secure Email.

From: S. Hagberg
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC); georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Compassion
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:25:50 PM

Ms. Massaro:

I hope all is well with you and yours. I write to add my voice to the need for compassion at this time of insecurity and danger. It's pretty simple: Suspend utility cut-offs for all low-income, unemployed and otherwise disadvantaged people in RI. Restore utility connections to those low-income and/or unemployed fellow Rhode Islanders. And immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumer.

If it means a surcharge for those who can afford it (means tested) then I am still all in. Good policy will improve life for all Rhode Islanders.

Stay safe, be generous.

Best,

Sean Hagberg, PhD.

--
S. Hagberg, PhD
Clinical Asst. Prof., Neurosurgery UNM
Cranston,RI
401.524.7177

--
This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.avast.com_antivirus&d=DwIDaQ&c=tSLbvWYfvulPN3G_n48TUw&r=g16mRgg0qW3XBL_vuTMAqxnWux59vigdLg-RZciYSOI&m=jds-ibJSIsObtM3z72b1EQH00qT9ZvHQ9elCJQC-R4Q&s=p2Oq0OHDBZS8hnnNp3OLRNo6-Xh0DuM7z05i60eNKwY&e=

From:	Liz Downing
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : covid 19 safety net and public utilities
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:52:34 AM

Dear Ms. Massaro,
In light of the growing volume of people who are not able to work and in the position of caring for family, friends and community members, stretching precious resources beyond the limit of sustainability, I believe it is incumbent upon the State of Rhode Island to do everything possible to reduce expenses for our community members including:

No termination of utilities during the state of emergency and for the unemployed or low-income household anytime afterwards.

- Emergency utility (electric, gas, water and sewer) restoration for all unemployed or low-income households without any down payment.

- Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers (no more than 2% of income for electric and no more of than a total of 4% of income for electric and heat or electric and gas).

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of this extremely urgent matter.

Liz Downing
Providence, RI 02906

From: Janice Gan
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC); georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Covid utilities measures
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:59:22 PM

Dear PUC,

In light of the Covid crisis, I urge you to: stop termination of utilities during the state of emergency, restore utilities to low income and out of work households, and implement a percentage of income payment plan immediately.

These measures can make or break RI families, since loss of utilities and high payments can have so many ripples effects.

Janice Gan
North Providence

From:	Vikki Warner
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : COVID-19 crisis and utility shutoffs
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:08:27 PM

Dear Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission,

I am a Rhode Island resident writing today to demand help for vulnerable folks in our state who must cope with personal financial fallout from the COVID-19 crisis.

Please see to it that:
- There are no terminations of utility (electric, gas, water and sewer) services during the state of emergency and for the unemployed or low-income household anytime afterwards.
- Emergency utility restoration is provided for all unemployed or low-income households without any downpayment.
- There is immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers (no more than 2% of income for electric and no more of than a total of 4% of income for electric and heat or electric and gas).

Thank you.

Vikki Warner
103 Penn St.
Providence, RI 02909

From:	awt
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : COVID-19 crisis response
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:16:41 AM

Dear Ms. Luly Massaro,

I'm email to demand that in light of the growing COVID-19 crisis, the RI PUC:
- **halt any termination of utilities** during the state of emergency and for unemployed or low-income households anytime afterwards.
- restore utilities for low income and unemployed people immediately and without any down payment
- immediately implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers (no more than 2% of income for electric and no more of than a total of 4% of income for electric and heat or electric and gas).

Thank you for your time, please do not forget the most vulnerable among us in this time of crisis! To stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19, we all need to be safe, warm and have access to clean water.

Sincerely,
Alexis Wood
Providence, RI

From: Dan Kittridge
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Energy Justice During This Crisis
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:54:28 PM

Members of the RI PUC,

The pandemic we are currently facing has exposed how vital utility services are for all members of our community. During this crisis, while many are unemployed and as many as possible must isolate at home for the good of all, we must not only maintain the temporary moratorium on shutoffs for lack of ability to pay, but make that moratorium permanent. Water, electricity, and heat are vital for all members of our community and must not be denied due to lack of ability to pay, because to do so not only hurts those disconnected, but the entire community. In addition, to ensure as many people as possible can safely self-isolate we restore utilities for all unemployed or low-income households without any down payment. Lastly, in order to make sure everyone can be provided with these basic necessities, which are human rights, we must immediately implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers (no more than 2% of income for electric and no more of than a total of 4% of income for electric and heat or electric and gas). These measures are a bare minimum to ensure that all members of our community can safely self isolate to the maximum extent possible for the good of all, and as these services are human rights, must continue beyond this crisis.

Thank you,

Dan Kittridge
Providence, RI

From:	Gerald Willis
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Hello Luly
Date:	Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:33:30 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png image006.png

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Hello Luly,

I'd like to add my voice supporting the George Wiley Center regarding not terminating utilities during the current state of emergency -- and for the unemployed (or low-income households) anytime afterward the current state of emergency ends.

I also support emergency utility (electric, gas, water and sewer) restoration for all unemployed or low-income households, and without any down payment.

Further, I support the Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers (no more than 2% of income for electric and no more of than a total of 4% of income for electric and heat or electric and gas).

As you know, the PUC issued Order No. 23786 suspending service terminations and collection activities of all regulated electric, natural gas, water and sewer utilities during the COVID-19 Emergency. But the full length of the suspension appears to still up in the air.

I, along with the George Wiley Center, encourage the PUC to put in place a permanent moratorium against utility terminations and emergency restoration without any down payment for all low-income and unemployed households.

Please email me or call if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Gerry Willis

SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY [salve.edu]

Dr. Gerry Willis '86, M '88
Director of Alumni, Parent and Family Programs
Salve Regina University

p: (401) 341-2207 e: willisg@salve.edu
100 Ochre Point Ave., Newport, RI 02840
www.salve.edu [salve.edu]

[facebook.com] [twitter.com]
[youtube.com] [vimeo.com] [linkedin.com]

From:	David Norton
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	GEORGE WILEY CENTER
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : I want a permanent moratorium on shut-offs for low-income households in Rhode Island
Date:	Sunday, March 22, 2020 7:01:56 AM

Dear friends,

I would like to see a permanent moratorium on shut-offs for low-income households in Rhode Island. Folks living in Rhode Island should have access to heat and electricity regardless of income. As I understand it, low-income folks pay disproportionately higher bills than do wealthier folks. This is unfair. We need a permanent moratorium on shut-offs now!

I would also like to see heat and electricity restored to low-income folks without the 10% restoration fee. We are talking about folks that not only can't afford it but many who suffer from disabilities and live right on the edge of survival.

I would also like to see PUC the Percentage Income Payment Plan that is already in use in cities across our country.

Thank you,

David Norton

From: Ilana Rose
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Ilana Shemkovitz"s Public Comment
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:53:43 PM

Dear Luly Massaro,
I would like to submit the following for public comment. Please let me know if you need any additional information from me. Thank you.

I am writing to you amidst a global health crisis but I would like to address an ongoing crisis in the state of Rhode Island. I remember a time when I could not afford to pay my utility bills and I can only imagine having to go through this uncertain time without access to clean water or electricity in my home. While terminations and collections have been suspended for the time being, we must do more. We must place a permanent moratorium on terminations now so Rhode Islanders can have some peace of mind during these crises (the current global pandemic *and* the ongoing limited access to utilities). In addition, we must get rid of any payment necessary to have terminated services restored for low-income and unemployed households and immediately implement PIPP, as defined by the George Wiley Center, for a much-needed improvement to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program's impact. The current situation requires us to act quickly to protect our communities. Thank you for considering the safety and health of the most vulnerable people in the state at this scary point in history.

Sincerely,
Ilana Shemkovitz
Community member

From:	Marcy Feibelman
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Immediate Actions by PUC
Date:	Wednesday, March 18, 2020 6:10:24 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing the PUC to demand the following steps be implemented for the health and wellbeing of Rhode Islanders:

- **Permanent moratorium on shut offs for low-income households** Now is time for RI to lead on this issue and break the cycle of unfair shut offs on low-income families who have for too long have been forced to pay disproportionately higher utilities compared to more affluent households.

- **Emergency Utility Restoration for all low-income householdswithout any down payment** The RI PUC passed a 10% deposit of back bill down for restoration which we support for affluent households but we demand that those who can't afford the 10% (those eligible for LIHEAP assistance) should not be punished with higher health risks based on their inability to pay a 10% deposit to profit the utility company. The RI PUC should mandate that all utilities restore electric, gas and water to low-income households. RI needs to follow the lead of water departments who have agreed to reconnect household currently without running water without fees to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)** Although with this order the RI PUC says that: "*Utilities are encouraged to offer flexible payment plans to all customers facing financial hardship, even short-term, during this time."* We know that utilities need clear instruction and enforcement. Therefore, we expect our public officials to be more specific and to order that utilities not charge LIHEAP eligible consumers more than 2% of their income for electric and not charge a total of more than 4% of their income for electric and heat or electric and gas.
- We expect National Grid to voluntary agree to these fairer percentages to avoid adding regressive costs to low-income households' energy burden. National Grid should stop jeopardizing the health of low-income households who continue to suffer from disproportionately high utility costs because of the lack of a Percentage Income Payment.
- Today's health crisis hits homes on fixed incomes extra hard, that is

why we need a tiered income-sensitive approach. It is time fight the forces of regulatory capture and for energy officials to prove their accountability and allegiance to the people of Rhode Island rather than to utility profiteers.

These actions need to be taken immediately for the health and wellbeing of the people in this state.

Sincerely,

Dr. M Feibelman, ND
Naturopathic physician
Leaves of Change Natural Medicine
V. President, RI Association of Naturopathic Physicians

And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom. -Anais Nin

Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare. -Audre Lorde

Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a songbird will come. -Chinese proverb

From: Peter Nightingale
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc: George Wiley Center
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : In support of George Wiley Center demands
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:42:43 AM

Dear RI PUC commissioners:

Poverty and inequality are responsible for about 245,000 premature deaths in the United States [1]. Our society considers this acceptable under "normal circumstances." We do not know what the current pandemic will do to these statistics. Being in a position of power, you have the moral obligation to do all you can to make sure that this unacceptable situation does not become even worse. I therefore urge you to put in place the following measures as demanded by the George Wiley Center:

1. A permanent moratorium on shut offs for low-income households;
2. Emergency utility restoration for all low-income households without any down payment; and
3. Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP).

Thank you for your kind consideration of these vital issues,
—Peter Nightingale
52 Nichols Road,
Kingston, RI 02881

[1] How Many U.S. Deaths are Caused by Poverty, Lack of Education, and Other Social Factors? [mailman.columbia.edu]
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The next auto-quote (sent by free-ware from my commercial-free computer) is:

> The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more.
> *The Peaceable Kingdom* [youtu.be] by Randall Thompson (Isaiah 19:7)

Sign up to stay in touch [actionnetwork.org] with Nature's Trust RI

Peter Nightingale [phys.uri.edu]
Department of Physics, East Hall
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881, USA
Telephone 401.874.5882; Fax 401.874.2380

From: Georgia Young
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Keep Rhode Islanders safe at home during the COVID-19 pandemic
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:55:35 AM

Hello,

I write today as a resident of Woonsocket, RI, to urge the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission to protect Rhode Islanders during the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens everyone in the state's health and employment. You have the ability to ensure that residents are able to have unbroken access to all public utilities during this crisis and beyond.

I urge you **not to terminate utilities** during the current state of emergency, and **never** to terminate utilities for unemployed and/or low-income households.

I urge you to **restore all utilities access** for all unemployed and/or low-income households in the state, without any down payment.

I urge you to **immediately implement** the Percentage Income Payment Plan for LIHEAP eligible customers.

When people can be assured access to electricity, gas, water, and sewer utilities during this state of emergency, they can remain at home in comfort and safety, ensuring that they are able to observe the social distancing that will soften the impact of COVID-19. By taking these simple steps, you will save lives.

Thank you for your consideration,

Georgia

--
Georgia Young

From:	wwjayceeskc
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Permanent moratorium on (Emergency) shut offs for low-income households & Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)
Date:	Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:54:58 PM

Public Comments - Rhode Island PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
AttN: Luly Massaro, RI PUC Clerk: luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov

19 March 20

- Re: **Permanent moratorium on shut offs for low-income households**

GREETINGS! With the ongoing COVID-19 Emergency, it was most fitting for your agency to allow suspending service terminations and collection activities of all regulated electric, natural gas, water and sewer utilitiess

Now is time for Rhode Island to lead on this issue and break the cycle of unfair shut offs on low-income families who have for too long have been forced to pay disproportionately higher utilities compared to more affluent households.

- For example, **Emergency Utility Restoration for all low-income households without any down payment** - The RI PUC passed a 10% deposit of back bill down for restoration which consumers support for affluent households but urge that those who can't afford the 10% **(those eligible for LIHEAP assistance)** should not be punished with higher health risks based on their inability to pay a 10% deposit to the utility company. The RI PUC should mandate that all utilities restore electric, gas and water to low-income households. RI needs to follow the lead of water departments who have agreed to reconnect household currently without running water without fees to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

- Further, an **Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)** can go a long way. Although with this order the RI PUC says that: "*Utilities are encouraged to offer flexible payment plans to all customers facing financial hardship, even short-term, during this time.*" However, from past experiences, utilities need clear instruction and enforcement. Therefore, our public officials should be more specific and to order that utilities not charge LIHEAP eligible consumers more than 2% of their income for electric and not charge a total of more than 4% of their income for electric and heat or electric and gas.

- Additionally, National Grid should voluntary agree to these fairer percentages to avoid adding regressive costs to low-income households' energy burden. National Grid should stop jeopardizing the health of low-income households who continue to suffer from disproportionately high utility costs because of the lack of a Percentage Income Payment.

- Today's health crisis hits homes on fixed incomes extra hard, that is why we need a tiered income-sensitive approach. It is time fight the forces of regulatory capture and for energy officials to prove their accountability and allegiance to the people of Rhode Island rather than to escalate utility status.

Thank You for your kind public service consideration.

Yours Sincererly,

Jack Lancellotta

From:	Lee Rodman
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Please Extend Moratorium on Shut Offs and Implement PIPP
Date:	Friday, March 27, 2020 7:12:35 PM

To the Rhode Island Public Utility Commission:

I am a Rhode Island resident. In the midst of the current COVID-19 crisis, I ask that you issue a permanent moratorium on shut offs for low-income households. People require immediate and consistent access to electricity, gas, and water to wash, clean, and meet basic needs in order to reduce the spread of this virus. I appreciate that the RI PUC has issued a moratorium on shut offs until April 15th. However, low-income households need assurance that this moratorium will last as long as needed during this pandemic.

Moreover, those whose utilities have already been shut off need their utilities restored immediately. Utility restoration should be available to all, regardless of whether they can afford a 10% deposit of back bill down, so as to keep low-income households and all Rhode Islanders as safe as possible

Finally, please implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) immediately. We need our public officials to give clear, specific instructions to utility companies and to order that utilities not charge LIHEAP eligible consumers more than 2% of their income for electric and not charge a total of more than 4% of their income for electric and heat or electric and gas. Please show us that you will not prioritize utility profiteers, but will instead put the health of Rhode Islanders first.

Sincerely,
Lee Rodman

From:	J. Mark Ryan & Linda Ujifusa
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC); George Wiley Center
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : protect low-income utility consumers in Rhode Island and promote energy justice
Date:	Thursday, March 19, 2020 11:21:57 AM

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Please forward these comments to the PUC: Low-income families should not be forced to pay disproportionately higher utilities compared to more affluent households. The RI PUC should not require a 10% deposit of back bill down for restoration of those who can't afford the 10% (those eligible for LIHEAP assistance).

The RI PUC should mandate that all utilities restore electric, gas and water to low-income households. RI needs to follow the lead of water departments who have agreed to reconnect household currently without running water without fees to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

Utilities should not charge LIHEAP eligible consumers more than 2% of their income for electric and not charge a total of more than 4% of their income for electric and heat or electric and gas. National Grid should stop jeopardizing the health of low-income households who continue to suffer from disproportionately high utility costs because of the lack of a Percentage Income Payment.

Today's health crisis disproportionately hits homes on fixed incomes and we must have an income-sensitive approach. Please fight for the people of Rhode Island rather than for utility profits.

Respectfully,

Linda Ujifusa & J. Mark Ryan

Portsmouth, RI

From:	Charles Feldman
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC); Charles Feldman
Cc:	George Wiley Center
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Public Comment for PUC
Date:	Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:49:08 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a resident and voter in Rhode Island.

Utilities are important for maintaining a minimally decent way of life.

In light of the difficult situation Rhode Islanders are facing right now, I would ask the PUC to make sure that everyone has access to utilities, whatever their means may be.

To accomplish this, I would suggest: a permanent moratorium on shut-offs, as well as a restoration of utilities for all low-income households.

In addition, it would be a good practice to adopt the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP).

Thank you for considering these options,

Charlie

Charles Feldman
385 Westminster St Apt 5B
Providence, RI 02903
401-261-5294

- Permanent moratorium on shut offs for low-income and unemployed households
- Emergency Utility Restoration for all low-income and unemployed households without any down payment
- Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

From:	Nina Wolff Landau
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Public comment: utility justice for Rhode Island residents
Date:	Wednesday, March 25, 2020 10:10:59 AM

Hello,

My name is Nina Wolff Landau and I am submitting comments to the PUC as a Providence resident. Given the economic hardships facing thousands of residents of Rhode Island, including over 23,000 people who have applied for unemployment benefits, and the ongoing economic injustice people face even not under pandemic conditions, I strongly support the George Wiley Center's calls for the PUC to establish a permanent moratorium on all utility shut offs for unemployed and low-income households.

I also believe in the need for emergency utility restoration for all unemployed and low-income households without any down payment. Utilities are a basic right that all people should have access to, and money should not be a barrier to a right to live.

Finally, I strongly believe that RI must immediately implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan. Again, the coronavirus pandemic is worsening already existing economic injustice that makes it difficult if not impossible for many Rhode Islanders to pay their expensive utilities. We must not deny anyone access to the basic things they need to survive. We need PIPP now.

Thank you,
Nina

--
Nina Wolff Landau
nina.wolfflandau@gmail.com
(413) 230-7374

From: Brad Mellon
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public Comments
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 12:13:26 PM

I am writing to urge the PUC to support Emergency Utility Restoration for all low-income households without a down payment, and immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) which works well in many other states. Especially with schools shut down for several months, these measures will help children's education in low-income households. Thousands of Rhode Islanders are at risk of homelessness, and these are reasonable requests to make of regulated utility monopolies in this crisis.

Brad Mellon
151 Park St. #2
Pawtucket, RI 02860

From:	Jordan Goyette
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Requesting PUC action during ongoing crisis
Date:	Saturday, March 28, 2020 9:29:17 AM

Dear Honorable Members,

As I hope many are submitting to you currently, there are a series of actions the Commission should be taking currently to mitigate the unprecedented chaos that has especially impacted our most vulnerable people. The commission should swiftly act to enact a Permanent moratorium on shut offs for low-income and unemployed households, give Emergency Utility Restoration for all low-income and unemployed households with no down payment and Immediately implement a Percentage Income Payment Plan.

Thank you,

Jordan Goyette
114 uphill avenue
Warwick, RI 02886
401-527-4415
goyettejordan@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Kinverly Dicupe
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	George Wiley Center
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Rising to the Challenge
Date:	Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:39:51 PM

Hey Luly Massaro,

My name is Kinverly and I'm a concerned lower-income resident in Pawtucket. I'm especially concerned around the lack of action around these demands during this crisis:

- No termination of utilities during the state of emergency and for the unemployed or low-income household anytime afterwards.

- Emergency utility (electric, gas, water and sewer) restoration for all unemployed or low-income households without any down payment.

- Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers (no more than 2% of income for electric and no more of than a total of 4% of income for electric and heat or electric and gas).

PIPP was a program that Rhode Island previously had and all of these demands aren't even the minimum of what Rhode Islanders will need to get by. We could be looking at an unemployment rate of over 30%. I urge the PUC to take action quickly before things continue to deteriorate. We need you guys to rise to the challenge and act in accordance to the level of emergency this situation requires.

Kin

From: Mary Pendergast
To: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com; Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Shut offs
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:20:43 PM

Dear Public Utility Commission members,
As you know, we are in unprecedented times. I am a citizen concerned with the possibility of utility shut offs for those who are experiencing extreme hardship at this juncture. I am joining with other community members who are asking you to consider a permanent moratorium on shut offs for low income and unemployed households.
We are concerned that many people need emergency utility restoration without a down payment since this is critical for maintaining the health of all. I am a senior sitting here with three layers and heat on, surely there are young children, elderly and people who are not feeling well who are experiencing utility shutoff at this time., and we cannot afford a spike in flu like illness.
In light of this humanitarian and wise decision, an immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan would be a fair response to the public utilities.

Thank you for your caring response.
Sincerely,
Mary Pendergast, RSM

From: andrew javens
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utilities Justice re: COVID-19
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:07:12 PM

To the RI PUC:

I am writing to express my support for three actions the RI PUC can take to increase the safety, health, wellbeing, and quality of life for all Rhode Islanders. These actions are important always, but given the current circumstances with COVID-19, the need for them has become increasingly apparent. I believe that the RI PUC should take the following actions:

1. Establish a permanent moratorium on shut-offs for all low-income and unemployed households;
2. Enact Emergency Utility Restoration for all low-income and unemployed households without any down payment; and
3. Immediately implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP).

Thank you,
Andrew Javens

From: Kirk Robinson
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utilities Public Comment
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:48:36 PM

Dear Luly,

I hope this message finds you well.

Please consider the following comments:

1) No termination of utilities during this current state of emergency for the unemployed or for low-income households
2) Emergency utility restoration (electric, gas, water, sewer) for all unemployed or low-income households without any down payment
3) Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers (no more than 2% of income for electric and no more than a total of 4% of income for electric and heat or electric and gas)

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Kirk S. Robinson, Ph.D.

From:	Judith
To:	Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc:	georgewileycenter@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] : Utilities
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 6:30:34 AM

Dear RI PUC,

Please ensure that all people of RI have access to utilities all the time. Please stop terminations of utilities of low income people at this time and at all times.

Sincerely
Judith Dixon

From: Lhota, John
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utility Comments
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:35:07 PM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

I find it is totally disgusting and unacceptable that, during a world-wide pandemic, the likes of which have not been seen in over a century, Rhode Islanders are still living in fear of utility service shutoffs, which could resume at any point in time. If you have even a shred of decency in your body, I assume you are already working around the clock to help our community survive these deeply frightening and uncertain times.

I believe the shut-off moratorium must be swiftly made permanent for all low-income Rhode Ianders. Services should be restored to all people immediately to end this public health and human rights disaster -- regardless of their ability to offer a "down payment." I am also a supporter of the PIPP program, and feel strongly that it should be restored -- now more than ever.

I hope you will do your job today, as it is more important than ever.

From,
John Lhota
--
From,
John Lhota

From: Taritha David-Hill
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utility Shutoffs
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 6:41:29 AM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

During these uncertain times this Great Nation is facing no one is except from things yet to come. United We Stand, Divided We Fall ; should not be a way of life right now. As a Nation we must rise up together to assist our community in the precedent fashion we know your office is capable of doing.

Your office has been a tremendous asset to our community and the work you do has not gone unnoticed. We're appreciative for all that you do and will continue to do for the community.

As a person of the community I know my family and I will forever be grateful for any and all extension's your office will provide.

#NoShutOff2020

#HelponeSaveone

#UnitedWeStand

Respectfully yours,

Taritha David Hill

From: joetud10@gmail.com
To: Massaro, Luly (PUC)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utility Shutoffs
Date: Sunday, March 22, 2020 12:38:54 PM

Hello,

Please implement a permanent moratorium on shutoffs for low-income households, emergency utility restoration for all low-income households, and immediate implementation of the PIPP. In the modern era, when schools are considering learning via the internet and many vulnerable people rely on electricity to run medical equipment, electricity is a human right.

Thank you,
~Joseph Tudino

From:	Curran, Margaret (PUC)
To:	Anthony, Abigail (PUC); Gold, Marion (PUC); Lucarelli, Patricia (PUC); WilsonFrias, Cynthia (PUC); Bianco, Todd (PUC); Hogan, Margaret (PUC); Harrington, John (PUC); Nault, Alan (PUC); ColbyCamara, Sharon (PUC)
Cc:	Massaro, Luly (PUC); Mignanelli, Kathleen (PUC)
Subject:	Fwd: [EXTERNAL] : Utilities Request for Federal Support
Date:	Sunday, March 22, 2020 12:54:26 PM
Attachments:	Letter_to_Mnuchin_Kudlow_Edison_Electric_Institute_03_22_2020.pdf ATT00001.htm

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FYI

Margaret E. Curran
Chairperson
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888
401-780-2174 (office)
401-952-0401 (mobile)
margaret.curran@puc.ri.gov

From: Sobolewski, Terence <Terence.Sobolewski@nationalgrid.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 12:44:42 PM
To: George, Linda (DPUC) <Linda.George@dpuc.ri.gov>; Pappas, Marc (EMA) <Marc.Pappas@ema.ri.gov>; Ucci, Nicholas (DOA) <Nicholas.Ucci@energy.ri.gov>; Verdi, Nicole (GOV) <Nicole.Verdi@governor.ri.gov>; Curran, Margaret (PUC) <Margaret.Curran@puc.ri.gov>
Cc: Ryan, Michael <Michael.Ryan@nationalgrid.com>; Grant, Kate <Kate.Grant2@nationalgrid.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utilities Request for Federal Support

All,

The attached is for your information. The letter is from EEI to federal leaders detailing important considerations and requests for maintaining critical services and infrastructure as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues.

In recent days, we have discussed most of the key points outlined in the letter. We will continue working diligently to ensure safety and reliability, and will be sure to update you as circumstances continue to evolve.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Terry

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