

From: [Tanya Rivera](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] :
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:15:25 PM

Im a little scare about my utilities getting shut off and my landlord asking for his rent. I jave22 small kids.

From: [Tanya Rivera](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] :
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:17:26 PM

Im doing the amp program i wasn't able to make my payment for april.

From: [la](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : All are in need of running water and electricity
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:03:14 PM

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: [Eliza Cohen](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [George Wiley Center](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Change Needed for PUC emergency orders
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:52:28 PM

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to advocate for the following critical provisions to protect families across the state. As a public health worker I know the severity of consequences to households who experience a utility shutoff. As a public body, the PUC has a responsibility to provide this basic access to all Rhode Islanders, not to protect the profits of this private company. Access to utilities should be a right for low income members of our communities.

With a PIPP plan, families can contribute what they realistically can pay-- this is how we treat taxes, and it's how we should treat all basic necessities. As a person who is lucky to have access to a steady income, I believe I should be paying much more for my utilities than my community members with disabilities, caring for family members, who face language barriers, or are unable to work for any other reason. I also believe I should be paying more for my utilities than my neighbors making minimum wage and working two and three jobs to support the Rhode Island economy.

I'm writing in support of the following three measures to support access to the life-critical access to utilities:

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

Thank you,
Eliza

==

Eliza Dexter Cohen
eliza.dexter.cohen@gmail.com
617.710.4815

From: [Jeff Sheehan](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Comment to PUC Moratorium on Shutoffs
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 1:06:15 PM

Hi Luly,

My name is Jeff Sheehan; I am a resident of Providence, a family law attorney, and sit on the board of directors for a local non-profit organization. I write to provide comment and urge that the PUC extend the moratorium on utility shut offs for RI Residents for at least as long as RI students are being home schooled or so long as the state of emergency exists; whichever is a longer period of time.

While students are being home schooled, they are expected to receive all their meals, bathe, consume enough nutrition, learn virtually, play, and isolate/socially distance. In many of these households, parents are all working from home, unemployed, physically ill, emotionally drained, and barely making ends meet. If families start to lose the basic needs in a time when we are supposed to be socially distancing, many people will be forced outside more than public health experts advise. Even after the state of emergency ends, we still may be home schooling, spending more time in our homes until a vaccine is produced. Terminating utilities will inevitably have the effect of forcing folks back in to public and potentially creating

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Jeff Sheehan

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: [Zak Mettger](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\); georgewileycenterri@gmail.com](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : comments as requested in your email of 3-30-2020.
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:38:46 PM

Follow my comments:

* * * * *

I am writing to urge the RI Public Utilities Commission to take three actions on behalf of poor and unemployed Rhode Islanders:

- place a permanent moratorium on turning off utilities for these citizens
- ensure emergency utility restoration without requiring a down payment; and
- immediately implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan for LIHEAP-eligible consumers.

As a low-income senior, I'm lucky enough to live in HUD-subsidized housing and don't have to pay utilities. I appreciate the steps the PUC has taken to date to ensure utilities are not shut off for poor and low-income Rhode Islanders, but in these uncertain times of Covid-19 and mass unemployment, the commission must go farther.

Thank you.

(Ms) Zak Mettger
125 Governor St., #303
Providence, RI 02906
401/648-1747

From: [Laura Brion](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Comments for PUC hearing - need free service restoration and permanent moratorium on shutoffs
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:32:46 PM

To the members of the PUC,

I strongly urge the following:

- Permanent moratorium on all utility shutoffs for all households
- Emergency utility restoration for all households without any down payment
- Immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

Access to these services is more critical than ever for survival.

Thank you,

Laura Brion
Providence, RI

From: [Pam Jennings](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Comments on PUC Order No. 23786
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:33:04 PM

Good afternoon Ms. Massaro,

Please accept my comments in regard to PUC Order No. 23786. While I am grateful for the fact that the PUC has temporarily suspended service terminations and collection activities of all regulated electric, natural gas, water and sewer utilities during the COVID-19 Emergency, I am afraid that this order does not go far enough to protect our vulnerable brothers and sisters. These public utilities are a basic human necessity to live safely and with dignity.

I respectfully demand that there be a permanent moratorium on shut offs for low-income and unemployed households.

In addition, there must be emergency utility restoration for all low-income and unemployed households without any down payment

Finally, the long-term solution that will allow all Rhode Islanders to afford these critical services is the implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP). A PIPP program must be implemented in RI immediately.

Thank you for incorporating these provisions which will create equitable access to these critical utilities.

Sincerely,

Pam Jennings
Resident of Providence

 [\[twitter.com\]](#)  [\[facebook.com\]](#)
pamelaj9@gmail.com
401-787-2775

From: [David Ackley](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Comments to the RI PUC
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:00:45 PM

Dear Ms. Massaro:

I am submitting these written comments in support of a moratorium on termination of service for nonpayment. I am a Rhode Island voter living in Barrington.

At all times, but especially in a time of crisis, the public utilities should exercise understanding and compassion with the poorest members of the community. If these are truly public utilities, they should treat the neediest with dignity and respect. If for-profit companies like National Grid are to deliver necessary services to RI citizens, the PUC needs to police their actions to make sure that economic demands don't lead to the suffering of people in the state.

The PUC should support a permanent moratorium on shut-offs for low income households. In cases where the household can not afford down payment, the down payment should be waived. In addition, the PUC should enforce a Percentage Income Payment Plan for those needing it.

The PUC should demonstrate their support of Rhode Island citizens, rather than the companies that are lucky enough to deliver services to that citizens.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

David Ackley
Barrington, RI

From: [Joseph Monteiro](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [George Wiley Center](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Covid 19
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 6:04:29 PM

Dear Commisioner Massaro

I am writing in support of the following initiatives.

- **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)** please **institute these policies immediately**

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: [Ed Benson](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [George Wiley](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Emergency measures
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:53:53 PM

Ms. Massaro
Chair, RI Public Utilities Commission

During this time of national emergency quite unlike any other we have ever faced, our state government owes it to us, its citizens and constituents, to make full use of all the powers at its command. It behooves you as the state official charged with making sure the utility companies work for all of us to protect low income and unemployed Rhode Islanders not only by enacting a permanent prohibition on utility shutoffs for them, but also ordering an emergency restoration for all unemployed and low income Rhode Islanders who have already been shut off. Surely we cannot as a people simply consign them to freezing in the dark.

Edward Benson, 49 Progress Street, Pawtucket, 02860 475-3396



Virus-free. www.avg.com [[avg.com](#)]
[avg.com](#)]

From: [Andrew Eberly](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Emergency Public Utilities
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:51:51 AM

In an emergency such as this pandemic, we must stop shutting off utilities, immediately restore utilities to those in need without a down payment, and introduce the percentage income payment plan (PIPP).

-Andrew Eberly
Exeter, RI

From: [Kate k-berg](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [George Wiley Center](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : emergency utilities services
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:26:56 PM

April 9,2020

I am writing today to implore you to instate a permanent moratorium of utility shut-offs for low-income families and to restore such services without penalty of payment and to put the PIPP into effect.

I am a senior citizen collecting \$750 MO. And I supplement part-time income as a Massage Therapist. I have been doing this work for 35 years and have no pension, no assets, no estate; just what I live on from month to month. I am fortunate to have a supportive community of clients and friend and I know that not everyone has that.

I am currently unable to work because of the COVID-19 virus and things are even tighter than they were. The added stress of not knowing if I will lose my utilities is frightening and I know that poor people all over are in similar and more dire circumstances.

Please continue the emergency orders.

Thank You,

Kate Katzberg

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows 10

From: [Max Grear](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : End dangerous utility shut-offs during COVID-19 crisis
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 1:56:57 PM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

I am writing to respectfully request that the RI PUC (1) implement a permanent moratorium on shut-offs for low-income and unemployed households and (2) restore utilities for all low-income and unemployed households without any down payment. I also urge the PUC to implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP).

Even under normal circumstances, utility shut-offs threaten the safety, health, and well-being of low-income Rhode Islanders, especially those who are elderly and/or have health issues. During the current coronavirus crisis, the life-threatening consequences of utility shut-offs are all the more severe. I urge the PUC to take action to prevent dangerous shut-offs and save lives.

Thank you,
Max Grear

From: [Benjamin Safran](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : end utility shut-offs/emergency utility restoration
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 8:56:31 AM

Dear PUC commissioners,

I am writing to implore you to put an end to all utility shut-offs and implement immediate emergency utility restoration for all Rhode Island residents for at least the duration of the current public health crisis. I also support immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers.

Access to utilities without risk of shut-offs or late fees is a bare minimum human right at all times, and even more so in the midst of a pandemic. I urge you to take bold action to ensure Rhode Island residents have access to utilities so that they can stay well while in quarantine.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Safran
317 Wayland Ave
Providence, RI 02906

From: [Dennis Hogan](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycentrri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Energy Justice
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:13:20 PM

Dear RI PUC,

I'm writing to request that you take immediate action to ensure that no Rhode Islander has to live through this pandemic or its aftermath without necessary public utilities. Specifically, I'm asking that you enact an immediate moratorium on shutoffs for low-income households and provide emergency utility restoration for low income households without any down payment. Finally, I ask that you immediate implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) to ensure that people do not fall into arrears and consequently have their utilities shut off.

This is a challenging time for many of us but the PUC has the power to keep many people safely in their homes by guaranteeing those homes retain crucial utility services. Thank you for your attention to this message.

Sincerely,
Dennis Hogan
Providence RI

From: [Amy Crawford](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Extend protections
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 8:52:56 AM

Please extend the protections for people who cannot afford to pay bills until at least June 1st. It is imperative that we protect all our citizens and fellow human beings in this time of crisis.

Thank you
Amy Crawford
126 Mesa Dr
N Kingstown RI

From: [Gross, Benjamin](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Extend the suspension of utilities permanently
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:05:47 PM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

I write to you to express my deeply held belief that there should be a permanent moratorium on shut offs for people who are either low income or unemployed. Utilities are a human right, and given the current privatized utility system we have in RI there need to be protections for people at risk of losing that right. Not only must we stop shutoffs, but people's electricity and heat needs to be restored immediately without them having to pay an upfront cost. Forcing people to choose between essential items like food or medicine and electricity or heat in their homes is inhumane and can only be restored through reconnection. Finally, to ensure the long term stability of these plans, it is imperative that a percentage of income payment plan be implemented to stop low income Rhode Islanders from paying more than 2% of their income on electricity or more than 4% of their income on electric and gas. According to the EIA, nearly a third of people in the US and even more in New England have experienced energy insecurity. This is unacceptable, and RI can step up to help be part of that change. This is financially and politically feasible if we choose to make it a reality. I hope you join this movement in doing so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ben Gross

From: [Meghan Elizabeth](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:11:50 PM

To the RI Public Utilities Commission,

My name is Meghan Fernandes and I am writing in regards to the emergency orders that cease the termination of utility services for many Rhode Islanders. I have lived in Rhode Island for my entire life and I have seen the harm that is done to families in my community when their utilities have been turned off due to their inability to make ends meet. From what I have seen, it is never for lack of trying that people are not able to pay their bills and it is cruel to take away such basic things like heat and lighting from people who are already struggling to get by, especially now during this pandemic with so many people out of work. I implore you to consider the various conditions many people are under that make it difficult to always make their payments and how harmful and simply ineffective it is to turn off their utilities. Please choose compassion and understanding for us, the people of Rhode Island and put into place the following:

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

You have the unique opportunity in this moment to take the kind of action that will instill hope in many people. During this time of great uncertainty, programs like this are what will hold our communities together. Please choose to be a part of that.

Thank you.

Meghan Fernandes
14 Sheridan Avenue
East Providence, RI

From: [Kevin Callej](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Hi
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:53:55 PM

Name is kevin callej what about food or supplies toilet paper paper towels water. Disinfectant spray. Ex things we need

From: [Zoe Chaves](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\); georgewileycenterri@gmail.com](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Moratorium on shutoffs
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:20:23 PM

Hi there,

I'm Zoe Chaves. I live and work in Providence, RI (02903). I am a National Grid customer.

I'm writing to make a few requests of the PUC:

- Please place a permanent moratorium on utilities shut offs for low-income and unemployed households
- Please start emergency Utility Restoration for all low-income and unemployed households, without any down payment
- Please immediately implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

These measures will help our vulnerable neighbors stay safe during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. Their safety is important in itself, and indispensable to a flourishing RI.

Thank you,
Zoe Chaves

From: [Kate Schapira](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [GEORGE WILEY CENTER](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : moratorium on utility shutoffs for Rhode Island residents
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:58:01 PM

I'm a longtime Rhode Island resident calling on the PUC to place a moratorium on all utility shutoffs, restore utility services to low-income households without a down payment, and begin implementing a Percentage of Income Payment Plan for low-income Rhode Island utility customers. These changes become ever more necessary as many Rhode Islanders move into their first full month with reduced or no income because of the COVID-19 crisis. The need to not just "keep the lights on" but cook food, work remotely when possible, and power home medical equipment is urgent; so is taking measures that could make the difference for Rhode Island families between a temporary setback and a spiral of poverty and debt that they cannot escape.

I most urgently request you to implement these measures, which will help low-income students stay current with schoolwork that they can now only do over the computer, help people with medical conditions power their equipment and stay in their homes where their risk of COVID-19 is lower, help people reach out electronically to their loved ones in quarantine--and allow Rhode Islanders to maintain a greater degree of financial stability that will let the state bounce back from the crisis sooner and more completely.

Sincerely,
Kate Schapira
4 Brighton St
Providence, RI 02909

From: [Joan Ramos](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgesileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : No utility shutoffs
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:37:59 AM

The coronavirus crisis is no time to subject already stressed individuals and families to further housing insecurity. I support a permanent moratorium on utility shutoff for low income and unemployed households, emergency restoration of utilities for all low income and unemployed households without any downpayment, and immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan.

The coronavirus crisis is no time to subject already stressed individuals and families to further housing insecurity. And measures taken to mitigate housing insecurity during the crisis should lead to permanent policies. Housing should be considered a human right.

Joan Ramos
Cranston 02905

From: joel.gilbert
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](mailto:Massaro,Luly(PUC))
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : permanent moratorium on shut offs
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:45:31 PM

Luly Massaro

Hello, I write to you today to ask you to please help there be a moratorium on shutoffs for the low income and a emergency utility restoration without a down payment.

I also ask there be an immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP), It is a long term solution.

Things are hard enough for the low income and the elderly, but with the virus we are hit even more with lack of support. People are suffering and there are a lot of us out of work.

Thank you for your time
Joel Gilibert

From: [Latisha Michel](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Permanent moratorium
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 2:31:30 PM

Utilities are a basic need for all. Please consider to put in place a permanent moratorium against utility terminations and emergency restoration without any down payment for all low-income and unemployed households.

Sincerely,
Latisha Michel
Founder of Ready Set Latch Go
www.readysetlatchgo.com [readysetlatchgo.com]
401-684-8189

"Birth isn't something we suffer, but something we actively do and exult in"

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: [lori.mucci](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Poor peoples campaign
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:27:54 AM

Please support The Rhode Island Poor People's Campaign supports the George Wiley Center demands: We ALL must do our part to care for our neighbors. Thank you Lori Mucci

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathy Russell](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : PPIP
Date: Sunday, April 5, 2020 10:17:04 PM

I am writing to ask that you enforce Percentage of Income Payment Plans for Rhode Islanders receiving utility services.

Thank you,
Kathleen Russell
registered voter
West Warwick

From: [Lisa Petrie](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\); georgewileycenterri@gmail.com](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Preserving access to essential services
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:21:20 AM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

Please submit the following comment to the Public Utilities Commission.

The coronavirus pandemic has been difficult for all Americans, but all across the country, it's hitting lower-income residents especially hard. Lower-income workers are more likely to have their livelihoods disrupted by social distancing policies because they are unable to work from home. In addition, due to the conditions in which they live, work, and get around, as well as pre-existing health disparities, they face an elevated risk of contracting the virus and experiencing serious complications. The enormous racial disparities in coronavirus deaths around the country are exposing the role played by poverty, among other things, in increasing the risk from coronavirus--and Rhode Island is no exception.

So, now more than ever, lower-income communities need relief--relief from the fear (or the reality) of losing their electricity, water, etc., and relief from the stress of being inundated with bills they can't afford to pay.

Please make permanent the moratorium on shut-offs for low-income households. In addition, please require that utilities be restored, without the need for any down-payment, to all lower-income residents whose service has been cut off. And finally, please immediately implement the Percentage Income Payment Plan, with payments based on the income residents are *currently* receiving, to ensure that no one is forced to choose between keeping the lights on (or the oxygen flowing) and putting food on the table, buying medicines, etc.

Every day, doctors, nurses and all hospital workers are risking their own lives to save their patients, and essential workers are putting their health on the line to meet our needs. People in all walks of life are stepping up to help each other and protect the most vulnerable in this time of crisis. We expect our government to do the same.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Lisa Petrie

11 Debra Drive

Carolina, RI 02812

From: [Jeffrey Feldman](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Protect the most vulnerable, don't terminate utilities
Date: Sunday, April 5, 2020 5:49:21 PM

To whom it may concern,

Rhode Islanders are facing an unprecedented threat to their lives and livelihoods with the rapid spread of COVID-19 and the economic downturn that is only beginning. The last thing Rhode Islanders need to worry about is whether their lights and gas will stay on. I have spoken to a number of low-income Rhode Islanders who are thousands of dollars in debt to utilities due to, e.g., medical needs that require electricity. Moreover, If people are able to stay at home using their light, heat, etc., they will put fewer people at risk by going out in public.

Thus I write to demand that the Public Utilities Commission to demand a permanent moratorium on shutoffs for low-income and unemployed households, an emergency utility restoration for all low-income and unemployed households, as well as the Percentage Income Payment Plan. Implementing these policies as soon as possible will protect Rhode Islanders.

Please consider these demands.

Jeff Feldman

From: [Megan Smith](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public comment - please extend the emergency order against shutoffs
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:20:51 PM

Good afternoon, Ms. Massaro-

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Megan Smith and I am an outreach worker with the House of Hope CDC, an organization that works with people experiencing homelessness and those new to housing. I am writing to respectfully request that the current emergency order against utility terminations be extended.

The clients with whom we work are already stressed financially, and COVID-19 has only exacerbated this through job loss, reduction in food pantry/meal site options, and lack of access to social supports. I am very concerned that should utility shutoffs resume, several of our most vulnerable households will lose service, making their housing unfit and placing them in acute risk.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you have any questions or would like to discuss my comments further, please feel free to call me at (401) 484-0234.

Sincerely,
Megan

Megan Smith, MSW
The House of Hope
P: (401) 484-0234
F: (401) 921-5652
www.thehouseofhopecdc.org

From: [Mayra Paulino](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment on COVID-19 moratorium
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:07:05 PM

Hello,

My public comment is that

- During this state of emergency, the unemployed and low-income households should not have termination of their utilities.
- Please restore utilities (electric, gas, water and sewer) for all unemployed or low-income households without any down payment.
- Please 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). If this program was in place, people would be able to pay their bills.

Utilities are a basic need for all, for health/hygiene, work, study/school, safety & well-being

Thank you,

~Mayra ☺



"A society based on making all the money you can and ignoring people's needs is wrong." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Una sociedad basada en ganar todo el dinero que se pueda e ignorando las necesidades de la gente está mal." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From: [Katie Gradowski](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment RE: SUSPENSION OF SERVICE TERMINATIONS : AND CERTAIN COLLECTIONS ACTIVITIES : DOCKET NO. 5022 DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 12:24:01 PM
Attachments: [5022-Notice2.pdf](#)

Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk, RIPUC
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888.

Dear Ms. Massaro

My name is Katie Gradowski. I'm a resident and homeowner in Providence, Rhode Island.

I am writing to urge you to extend emergency orders, set to expire on April 15, 2020, to prohibit electric, natural gas, water, and sewer utilities to cease termination of service for nonpayment, cease sending past due accounts to collection, and to refrain from sending shut-off notices.

Our family is currently homebound with a medically fragile infant who relies on electrical service to support tube feeding. Our building is a multi-unit building with families living in all three units, all of whom rely on electrical service for basic needs. Across Rhode Island, there are families with school-age children who rely on consistent electrical service to participate remotely in public education.

I urge you to extend this order, at a minimum, until Rhode Island has ended the stay at home order and reopened public schools. Doing so will enable residents to safely comply with social distancing orders and allow all children in Rhode Island to continue to participate in public education through remote learning.

Thank you for all of the work you are doing in this difficult time to keep Rhode Islanders safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Katie Gradowski

224 River Ave
Providence RI 02908

From: [Benjamin Cooley Hall](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public comment regarding utilities
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:21:27 AM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

I am writing to make a public comment about utility-related policies that have direct impacts upon the well-being of many Rhode Islanders.

I support--and urge you to support--the following provisions:

--a permanent moratorium on utility shut-offs for households of low-income and unemployed people

--immediate emergency utility restoration without any down-payment for all households of low-income and unemployed people

--immediate implementation of the percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

Thank you.

Benjamin Cooley Hall, 139 Payton St., Providence, RI

From: [Judee Burr](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment to RI PUC: Supporting an End to Utility Shut-Offs
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:20:55 AM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

I am writing to support critical protections for the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders regarding access to utility services. Having access to gas, electric, water and sewer services is essential for public health. People need heating, cooling, washing, and sanitation services to stay healthy and safe - it is inhumane to deny access to these services when people have trouble paying their bills. The George Wiley Center has been a leading voice in advocating for these rights on behalf of all Rhode Islanders, especially most vulnerable. I support their demands for:

- 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; and
- 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 we all experience the Covid-19 emergency together, it has become obvious that each person's well-being depends upon the well-being of the entire community. We are only as safe and strong as our least protected individual. This has always been true - the pandemic has only turned up the volume on the urgent call for community care. As a community, we have the skills and tools to protect and provide for everyone, if only we agree to do the hard and concerted work of staying connected with each other and planning for a bright future that values every human life. Utility companies

Thank you,
Judee Burr
Providence, RI Resident

--

Pronouns: she/her
judee1421@gmail.com

From: [Emma Bouton](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment to the RI PUC
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:54:39 AM
Attachments: [Public Comment to the Public Utilities Commission.docx](#)

Dear Luly,

Attached is my public comment to the RI PUC.

Thanks,
Emma

From: [Anna Kastner](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:08:58 PM

Dear Public Utilities Commission,

I understand that at the next open meeting you are considering what steps to take in regards to the emergency orders currently in place. Now, more than ever, Rhode Islanders need protections in place to prevent terminations and shut-offs. People are hurting financially; we have already seen over [10,000 Rhode Islanders \[wpri.com\]](#) apply for unemployment assistance through the CARES Act, on the first day it was available alone. More people will undoubtedly lose their jobs in the coming weeks. We need stronger protections in place so that people don't also lose access to their utilities. I'm asking that the PUC take the following actions:

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

We know that if someone's utilities are shut-off, they can be evicted, lose custody of their children, and in some cases, lose [their lives \[nytimes.com\]](#). Please take action before it's too late!

Anna Kastner
Providence, RI

--

Anna Kastner
973.800.0638

From: [Melissa Weiss](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment: End Utility Shut-Offs During this Crisis (& Beyond)!
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:34:18 AM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

I hope this email finds you healthy and safe during this terrible crisis. In that same spirit, I'm writing to insist that we keep all Rhode Island residents healthy and safe. The time to act is now. We must instate: **a 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; and immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP).**

Best,
Melissa

From: [Clara Zornado](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public comments
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:11:00 PM

I am a Rhode Island resident who is deeply concerned about the undue suffering that is being experienced by Rhode Island's low-income residents. The urgency of our current circumstances under pandemic cannot be overemphasized: people WILL and ARE losing their housing at a time where seeking refuge in one's home is being mandated by the state. Please remember that people have lost their jobs due to circumstances completely out of their control. Please remember that many have also lost health insurance. Please remember that many already struggle with transportation, accessing medical and mental health care, and buying groceries. Please acknowledge that our unemployment database is extremely difficult to access even for those who are tech-savvy and speak English fluently. What will Rhode Island residents do if they cannot access their homes? What will they do if they do not have a home to seek shelter in? How do you plan to act in honor of all Rhode Island residents? How do you plan to "protect and serve" low-income families that are disproportionately suffering right now?

To ensure everyone's safety and survival, there must be permanent moratorium on shut offs for low-income households. ALL low-income households must be granted emergency utility restoration WITHOUT payments required. A Percentage Income Payment Plan MUST be implemented immediately.

Please consider.

Clara Zornado

From: [George Wiley Center](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : PUC Comment
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:13:01 PM

Hey Luly!

Below is a statement from a resident of Central Falls(who called into the GWC) on what needs to be done in this crisis.

"Last year the gas and electricity went up and I've been on the brink of being shut off multiple times. My husband is on dialysis and a policy like PIPP would really help alleviate some of my stress. My husband needs our electricity to be on to be alive." - **Maria Reyes/Central Falls Resident/** 401-359-1606

--



Organizing for social and economic justice

George Wiley Center
32 East Ave
Pawtucket, RI 02860
office: 401-728-5555
fax: 401-725-1020
georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
georgewileycenter.org [georgewileycenter.org]

From: [Steve Alam](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : PUC COMMENTS ON COVID EXTENSIONS
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 12:25:54 PM

Hello,

My comments can be summarized as follows: "Do the right thing." To my mind, the right thing(s) are described by the Poor Peoples campaign;

- . 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).

Thanks for your attention,

Steve Alam

60 Glen Meadow Ln, Harrisville, RI 02830

508 369 8756

From: [Ryan Allenson](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [George Wiley Center](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : PUC Comments on PIPP and Utility Shut-Offs
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:34:00 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ryan Allenson and I am submitting these comments on behalf of supporting a permanent moratorium on utility shut-offs for low-income people. In these unprecedented times shut-offs would be inhumane. Therefore I support both Emergency Utility Restoration for all low-income households without the need for any down-payments and the immediate implementation of the Percentage Income Payment Plan.

Thank you.

From: [Jenn Pratt](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Regulated utilities
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:29:42 PM

My name is Jennifer. I'm not sure if this is what's needed, but in regards to regulating utilities, i am a single mom of two young children. I work full time, I'm in school full time for two different degrees. My EMT and my associates in legal studies. Due to the current situation with covid-19, I'm unable to work and solely relying on \$200 a week from unemployment so bills are going unpaid, etc. I'm having to pick and choose between certain bills they are a necessity. I fully support the decision to maintain the suspension of all shut offs, etc.
Sent from my iPhone

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: [Ron Sacks](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RIPUC Request for Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:51:10 AM

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Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk, RIPUC

In support of the RIPUC Request For Public Comment as it relates to actions the RIPUC is considering taking with electricity utilities in the State of RI, on behalf of the 2 small businesses I own and operate in the State of Rhode Island I am submitting the following comments and recommendations for the State and the RIPUC to assist small businesses and employers through the Covid19 pandemic.

- 1) Extend the “no shut-off” order through May 31,2020
- 2) Order National Grid to cease all aggressive collection tactics.
- 3) Order National Grid to waive all late fees through May 31,2020 and rebate all late fees paid retroactive to February 1,2020.
- 4) Order National Grid to file an immediate rate reduction retroactive to March 1, 2020 to reflect the unprecedented and significant drop in demand and fuel cost
- 5) Order National Grid to rerate and rebate all incremental monies collected that resulted from the October 2019 tariff rate increases. The justification for the rate increases were based upon demand and fuel cost that never materialized and were 30% or less than National Grid forecasted. As a result, National Grid received a significant “windfall” at the expense of business and citizen rate payers many of whom are in need of financial assistance.

Respectfully

Ron Sacks

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From: [Nguissaly Faye](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Stopping shut offs
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:04:49 PM

Hi,

I am writing this email to request a moratorium on shut offs. Being in a low income family and head of a household, I am having hard time paying my energy bills. I have 3 daughters I have to take care in this bad times. Please keep the energy on for those in need.!!! Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jeannine Casselman](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Support for Utility Moratorium
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 9:35:12 AM
Attachments: [RI PUC moratorium comments final.docx](#)

Dear Clerk Massaro,

Please find attached MLPB's comment and support of a permanent utility moratorium.

I hope you and your family stay well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeannine

--

Jeannine Casselman, Esq.
Legal Advisor
She/Her/Hers

MLPB

200 Portland Street

Boston, MA 02114

T 617 336 7500 x453

F 617 336 7445

www.mlpboston.org [mlpboston.org]

jcasselman@mlpboston.org

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From: [Clement, Brenda](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Urging the PUC to extend the utility moratorium
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:29:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High

On behalf of my colleagues and board at HousingWorks RI, I am writing to respectfully urge the PUC to extend the moratorium on utility shut offs until at least the end of our current state of emergency. We also strongly support the recommendations made by our colleagues at the George Wiley Center and the RI Center for Justice. HousingWorks is a research and policy organization located at Roger Williams University. We know that access to basic utilities is critical for keeping people safe and healthy in their homes. Workers cannot work and children cannot learn remotely without them. We urge you to extend the moratorium. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Brenda Clement
Director, HousingWorks RI
1 Empire Plaza, 5th Floor
Providence, RI 02903
☎ 401.276.4815 | ☎ 401.440.2501 (c)
📠 401.276.4818 | ✉ bclement@rwu.edu
🌐 www.housingworksri.org [housingworksri.org]



From: [Dora](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utilities are a Basic Need for All!
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 7:28:20 PM

Dear Luly Massaro,

I'm writing to you today as a citizen and resident of Rhode Island concerned for the welfare and continued protection of low-income and unemployed households.

As you well know, the COVID-19 crisis in Rhode Island and beyond has brought unprecedented challenges and conditions, impacting all. This crisis is causing an immense economic burden for many, **especially** for those who are low income or unemployed. With the current state of emergency and stay at home order in place, having a safe home with all needed resources to remain functional and healthy is a must for all residents of Rhode Island.

That is why I'm reaching out, to demand 1) **permanent moratorium on shut offs for low-income and unemployed households** and 2) **Emergency Utility Restoration for all low-income and unemployed households without any down payment**.

If these changes aren't implemented, this will negatively effect these families' ability to maintain their health and hygiene and thus make their and our collective fight against COVID-19 harder. This will also hinder their ability to provide their children and themselves with comfortable study and remote work environment that would make their daily lives as normal to their usual as possible. This will affect their mental health and more.

Additionally, **implementing the Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)** is one step towards assisting and supporting those in need and in danger of losing access to the daily necessities that comes from utility services.

Please take this seriously. If we don't act immediately, there will be a humanitarian crisis in the state of Rhode Island even when the COVID-19 emergency passes.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Dora

From: [Jessica Avizinis](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utilities are a basic need
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 9:21:43 AM

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the RI Poor People's Campaign to emphasize the need for utilities for all residents. This is a matter of public health during this global crisis. We expect compassion for our neighbors and the end of profiteering over basic needs. We expect:

- **A 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
- And Immediate implementation of the **Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)**

Thank you,

Jessica

From: jsjjs@aol.com
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utilities Continuance
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:12:04 PM

Dear July -

Every day I read the Providence Journal and wonder how in the world people are surviving who have no source of income during these difficult and frightening times. Both my husband and I are long retired, and while our income is very modest, we know we are going to have food on the table. We have only ourselves to care for. I can not imagine the life of a mother or father with young children who worry about keeping warm, cooking food, reading by lamplight, etc.

As a state agency, PUC really MUST keep the utilities running for everyone in this state regardless of ability to pay until the end of the summer. We have no idea how long this pandemic will last. People are strapped for food money, let alone having the ability to pay their utilities or rent.

We need to show heart here and care for those in our state who need a hand up. Please be sure the utilities continue unabated until well past this pandemic.

Thank you.

Jan Searles
5390 Post Road
Unit 10
E Greenwich, RI 02818

From: [Rebecca Gasior Altman](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : utilities during COVID-19 crisis
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:32:16 PM

Dear Ms. Massaro,

Stable access to public utilities is as critical as ever. And given the ongoing pandemic, ensuring public utilities is also good public health. To meet Governor Raimondo's requests for adequate hand-washing, reusable mask-wearing (and thus laundering) as well as home-based schooling (and, for those for whom it is a possibility, working from home) require utility access.

And yet, given the degree of job and income loss that have resulted from this crisis, affording said utilities presents a true hardship for some families.

Given your position, I ask that you consider installing a permanent moratorium on utilities shut off for low-income and unemployed households. It is my understanding that there are additional programs that your office may implement to support low-income and unemployment Rhode Islanders with their utility bills, including an emergency utility restoration for families in need, one that doesn't impose a down payment, as well as a percentage income payment plan.

Thank you for your consideration, and also for your leadership for RI families who need your assistance at this time.

Warm best,
Dr. Rebecca Altman
Grotto Ave., Providence

Rebecca Gasior Altman, PhD
Writer | Environmental Sociologist | TEDx speaker
www.rebecca-altman.com [rebecca-altman.com]

Board of Directors
Science and Environmental Health Network
www.sehn.org [sehn.org]

From: [Ann Doran](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utilities in RI are a basic need!
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:56:57 PM

We need the following immediately:

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

Please make sure these measures are implemented without delay.

Thank you

--

ANN

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: [Carol Komstock](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utilities
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 9:39:29 AM

This has to happen for people to survive and even not get this virus:

- **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)**

Thank you, Carol Komstock
Riverside



Virus-free. www.avg.com [[avg.com](#)]
[avg.com](#)

From: [Susan Feeley](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utility access/terminations/PIPP
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:29:28 PM

I am writing today because I am very concerned about the many Rhode Islanders who regularly face great hardship, and whose situation is made even more dire due to wages lost due to COVID-19. There must be a continuing moratorium on shutoffs for low-income households. Access to water, electricity and gas are essential normally, but are life-saving under current conditions. Also, this emergency calls for utility restoration for these households even if they cannot afford a down payment. Finally, the need for a Percentage Income Payment Plan is even more important than ever, and I strongly support its implementation. I hope to hear that the PUC takes action to support these life-saving measures. Thank you.

Susan Feeley
122 Rounds Ave.
Providence, RI

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 Islanders. 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: [Eva Amanda Agudelo](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Utility support for Rhode Islanders
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:16:19 AM

Hello Ms. Massaro,

I'm writing in support of the George Wiley Center's demands below:

- **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)**

As a mother, homeowner, and activist in RI, it's so important to me that all members of our community can be safe, warm, and have access to the basic needs of a dignified life. At a time of great unrest, it's in everyone's best interest to take care of one another so we can strengthen the ties that hold us together. Utilities are a basic public good and should be treated as such at all times, and especially now when so many are at risk. Those doing frontline work to address this crisis (grocery store clerks, janitors, health care support workers) are often struggling to make ends meet. Anything we can do to support them should be front and center and a top priority for our city and state officials.

Thank you for all you do, and for your attention to this matter. Stay well,

Eva Agudelo
389 Pine St.
Providence, RI 02903
413-522-5840

From: [Eloise o'shea-wyatt](#)
To: [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#); [George Wiley Center](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Wiley Center public comment
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 5:06:47 PM

In this time of millions facing possible disease and definite economic disaster the PUC with its authority to allow those low income and unemployed real honest relief from the predatory practices of National Grid. The Wiley Center a leader in fighting for utility justice has put forth three principle ways to provide this relief:

1. No termination of utilities during state of emergency for low income and unemployed anytime afterward.

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

3. **Immediate** implementation of Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP) for LIHEAP eligible consumers (no more than 2% of income for electric & heat or electric and gas)
We are all suffering the effects of this uncertain time some way more than others. It is important we act quickly and with compassion and solidarity with our fellow Rhode Islanders who are suffering through no fault of their own.

Thank you for your time and i am sure your compassion

Eloise Wyatt
eosheaw Wyatt@gmail.com