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British Columbia Utilities Commission

# Letter of Comment

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to submit a letter of comment concerning an application currently before the Commission, please provide a completed form to commission.secretary@bcuc.com. If email is unavailable, please mail the form to the address above. By doing so, you acknowledge that all letters of comment are published with the author's name as part of the public evidentiary record, both in print copy and on the Commission's website. All personal contact information provided on this page is removed before posting to the website. Forms must be received by the Commission by the last filing date included in the proceeding's regulatory timetable before final arguments.

Proceeding name: Step 2 Electrical Rates

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party? No

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Name (first and last): George Wynne Powell

City: [redacted] Province: British Columbia

Email: [redacted] Phone number: [redacted]

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The BC Utilities Commission is authorized to collect and publish a person or organization's personal information when they participate in a matter before the Commission under sections 26(c) and 33.1(r)(ii) and (iii) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). Subject to FOIPPA, all documents filed in respect to an application will be placed on the public record.

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last) George Wynne Powell Date: 30 July, 2016

Comment: Please specify the reasons for your interest in the proceeding, your views concerning the proceeding, any relevant information that supports or explains your views, the conclusion you support and any recommendations. The Commission may disallow comments that do not comply with the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

I live in an area that has no access to natural gas, our Capital Regional District for both safety and environmental reasons prefers we do not heat with wood. We have only two choices - wood or electrical. Propane gas supply is not reliable on our island.

4 decades ago I was encouraged to use electrical heat by B.C. Electric/Hydro. Now as a senior citizen. I enjoy the convenience, safety,reliability, and cleanliness of electrical heat. I have put the maximum R insulation rating , installed energy efficient LED lighting in all fixtures, and installed energy efficient glass windows to reduce my electrical consumption.

Two years ago I replaced the electrical baseboard heaters with a high efficiency heat pump and electric furnace. I have reduced my electrical consumption immensely by these techniques but little more can be done to reduce my electrical consumption.

My wife and I rely on electricity for heating. Given that we have no access to alternative heating energy sources we strongly feel that the increasing of step 2 rates for homeowners is abusive and inappropriate. We are hoping that your Commission review considers that punishing the homeowner in remote British Columbia areas without any category for electrical home heating should be varied.

Thank you for reading my concern. I am retired today but as a CPA accountant I have performed numerous financial assistance and advice to other seniors living on our island. I am very concerned that the less successful individuals will not be able to afford the new step 2 % penalty and as such either terminate appropriate heat levels for them or impact their lives in a manner that as Canadians we should not force them to do.

thank you

George Wynne Powell

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