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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](mailto: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

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

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Name (first and last)

City  Province

Email  Phone number

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# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Sandra Leidl

Date:

August 5, 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 a modest condo built in the 70s when electric heat was touted by BC Hydro as a cheap, safe, renewable energy source. This is a multiple family residence. I cannot install natural gas, a central heating system, a wood stove or a fireplace in my unit. I cannot replace my individual windows or make other structural changes. I turn off my heat when I am away and at night. I keep my drapes closed. I am conserving energy, but if I wish to heat my apartment in the winter, I have no option but to pay second tier rates. And I live in the Lower Mainland. The increased cost is significant, and I have no choice.

The current rate structure is unfair to those who have no other option to heating their homes. It punishes many seniors and others on fixed incomes and as well as British Columbians all over this province who are greatly impacted by this rate structure. How many are forced to choose between heating their residences and other necessities of life?

BC Hydro needs to honour their long - ago promise. The current threshold between tier 1 and tier 2 is way too low. All British Columbians need to be able to heat their homes without a significant monetary penalty. The current system provides for a choice between heat and no heat and tier 1 or tier 2.

I do not object to energy conservation, and am doing my part. But the current rate structure punishes those with electric heat, that cheap, safe and renewable energy source of the 70s. It needs to be restructured so that all British Columbians can heat their homes without being unfairly penalized.