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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?

Name (first and last)

City

Province

Email

Phone number

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

David Flood

Date:

10-Aug-16

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 am a residential electricity customer of BC Hydro living in Lund BC with no access to natural gas service.

At the time my home was constructed in 2006, I was faced with the choice of propane, oil or electricity for home heating. I decided to go with electricity and have since made heavy investments in insulation, air sealing, low E argon glass, CFL/LED lighting, high efficiency appliances, and a state-of-the-art heat pump. Since my home is electrically heated from hydroelectric sources (BC Hydro claims over 90% of its power is from hydroelectric sources), I use essentially no fossil fuels for space heating or domestic electrical use. Consequently, my household fossil carbon footprint (from direct emissions) is effectively zero. However, as they say, "no good deed goes unpunished".

Despite its being touted as a 'clean' energy source natural gas is a fossil hydrocarbon, a significant source of increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, and a contributor to climate change. According to Statistics Canada (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-526-s/2010001/t004-eng.htm>), the average BC household (using natural gas) uses 81 gigajoules per year. This produces 4.5 tonnes of new CO<sub>2</sub> emissions directly into the atmosphere. So I am happy not to use natural gas, even if I had the choice. What I am not happy about is the current two-tier residential rate that effectively penalizes me for doing the right thing for the environment. What's even more perverse, the two-tier rate means I am actually subsidizing those who use fossil fuels for heating. This enables them, at my expense, to take advantage of the lowest electricity rates while still introducing tons of additional CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere each year.

I understand the reasoning behind the two-tier policy. Conservation and efficiency goals are important, and I have made large investments to help ensure I use electricity in the most efficient manner possible. However, given the abundant current and future electrical generating potential in BC from hydro, solar, wind and tide sources, not to mention grid-tied on-site generation, it seems absolutely wrong-headed for the commission to have a pricing policy that, in the name of conservation, drives customers towards the old fossil carbon alternatives (natural gas, propane, or oil). The commission should instead be encouraging the widespread adoption of clean, non-fossil sourced electrical energy generation, and pursuing pricing policies designed to encourage British Columbians to choose the cleanest alternatives. The current two-tier pricing policy, in my opinion, achieves the opposite.