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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](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

Residential two-tier electricity rates

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Ron & Gwen Zimmer

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Ron & Gwen Zimmer

Date:

1-Sep-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.

We are seniors living in [REDACTED] B.C. since 1995.

Our house was built in 1993-94 with electricity exclusively being the only power and heating source. Thus, there is no ducting systems built into the house. To convert this house to forced air (oil or propane) or even a heat pump for heating and cooling would require extensive and expensive renovations that probably would not be recovered in the balance of our lifetime by reduced heating bills from another power source.

Consequently, we have no choice in heating the house even if a natural gas line was to be added to the options for [REDACTED].

At one time, BC Hydro promoted power as being a clean economical source for residential construction. That has obviously changed now and with the two tier rating system we find ourselves subsidizing those who choose to live in an environment where they can benefit from this rating structure.

Upon examination of our power bills dating back to 2012, I can find only 3 months in the past 67 months where our total power consumption has been in the first tier consumption rate. We typically travel in the winter months and leave our thermostats at 8 degrees to ensure that the house does not suffer the effects of freezing. Even with this care, in 64 of the past 67 months, our power consumption exceeded the low tier one rate.

Is this fair? Obviously not when we have no options available to us and BC Hydro could and has arbitrarily implemented whatever rate structure is politically beneficial to the sustained development of the condo density in the lower mainland. There should be a third tier of pricing for those homes that cannot benefit from the alternative fuels and it is really despicable that we have to subsidize the condo density in the major cities!

We love living in [REDACTED] but should not have to pay an energy premium to do so.