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www.bcuc.com**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

BCUC RIB Rate Report

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Kevin Bartlett

City

Province

BC

Email

Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Kevin Bartlett

Date:

16-Oct-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 interested in this proceeding as a BC Hydro customer paying for electricity at the second-tier (more expensive) rate.

The BC Hydro and Fortis reports do not seem to address the basic question of what the two-tier system is supposed to accomplish. Is it to achieve the narrowly-focused goal of reducing electricity consumption? Or is it the broader goal of encouraging more environmentally-responsible behaviour?

If the latter, I suggest that the strategy is both flawed and unjust. My wife and I replaced our old oil furnace with a heat pump and installed a basement suite in our house to boost the building occupancy from two to four people. Both of these steps I consider to be environmentally beneficial, but they of course boosted our electricity consumption, pushing us into the second tier.

Why are we being punished for environmentally-friendly behaviour? Why are those of us who reduce their fossil-fuel use and act to increase housing density being treated the same as people who install outdoor hot tubs and keep spare beer fridges in the garage? This same treatment would apply to people who trade in their SUVs for electrical cars and consequently consume more electricity—does Hydro really want to discourage the adoption of greener transport?