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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

BCUC RIB Rate Report

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Paul Carter

City

[REDACTED]

Province

British Columbia

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Paul Carter

Date:

21-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.

Dear BCUC,

We are a family of two living in [REDACTED], B.C. and want to provide input regarding the impact of two-tier rates in our lives.

We are disappointed that the Commission utilizes the current two-tier plan for residences for the following reasons:

The threshold between the first and second tier is inappropriate for our needs. Because we rely solely on electrical power for our household to operate our heating and appliances, we quickly reach the second tier and are charged at a higher rate than the first tier. If the conservation of energy is the modus operandi for the commission, then for us to conserve energy based on our sole reliance on electrical power at the first tier, we use candles for light and buy cords of wood for our fireplace insert for heat and warmth during the winter months. We do these things to delay reaching the second tier rate.

The second-tier rate defines our conservation threshold and as such is quickly attained even though we resort to candles and wood stoves. We are a typical middle-class family of two but our anxieties increase when we use any appliances in the first tier level, because we know the second tier is easily met. In order to decrease some of our anxieties about electrical power use, we ironically invested hundreds of dollars in replacing our incandescent lights with LED lighting. Doing a cost-benefit analysis of this investment, it will take many years to find an monetary equilibrium with the cost of the LEDs and the savings with our electricity provider.

A power bill should not provoke a fear response in us. We appreciate the environmental direction towards the conservation of energy use in any home, but when our personal use is qualified by a background of fear and loathing towards our power provider because we so easily reach a higher level of electrical usage even though we try to employ conservative efforts to use electricity...well we are frustrated. There doesn't seem to be a fair benefit or reward in being energy efficient when the second tier is reached so easily. It's like buying a car that pollutes the environment minimally yet requires absurd amounts of money to maintain its efficiency. It's like buying an energy efficient house or working in an energy efficient building that reduces power costs yet makes its' occupants sick because the atmosphere is contained and recirculated. It's like buying into a major system that on the surface appears to be respectful of the use of energy, yet it fosters disgruntled feelings for a conscientious user over a fairly short period of time. With increased rates occurring on a yearly basis, personal trepidation in using electrical power leads to consumer fear and loathing of the electricity provider.

So I end with a question mark. What is the purpose of using a tiered rate system when basic electrical services continue to increase but the threshold line does not move? An equilibrium needs to be found not only in the distribution of power, but also in its use and costs.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you.

Paul Carter
[REDACTED]

