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## 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 Inclining Block Rate Report to the Government of British Columbia

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party? [ No ]

Name (first and last): Claire Trevena, MLA, North Island	
City: [REDACTED]	Province: British Columbia
Email: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED]

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last): Claire Trevena, MLA, North Island

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 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.

*[Please write your comments in this box]*

Dear Ms. Ross,

I am writing on behalf of the thousands of residents in the North Island who are being severely impacted by the two-tier electricity rate.

While two-tier pricing is seen as an effective way to encourage hydro conservation it makes two significant assumptions:

- that people have an alternative clean source of fuel; and
- people's homes are well insulated.

However many of my constituents rely solely on Hydro; there is no natural gas available beyond Campbell River. People living in communities as diverse as Cortes Island, Tahsis and Port Hardy are reliant on BC Hydro. If there is a secondary source of heat it is primarily wood; some use propane.

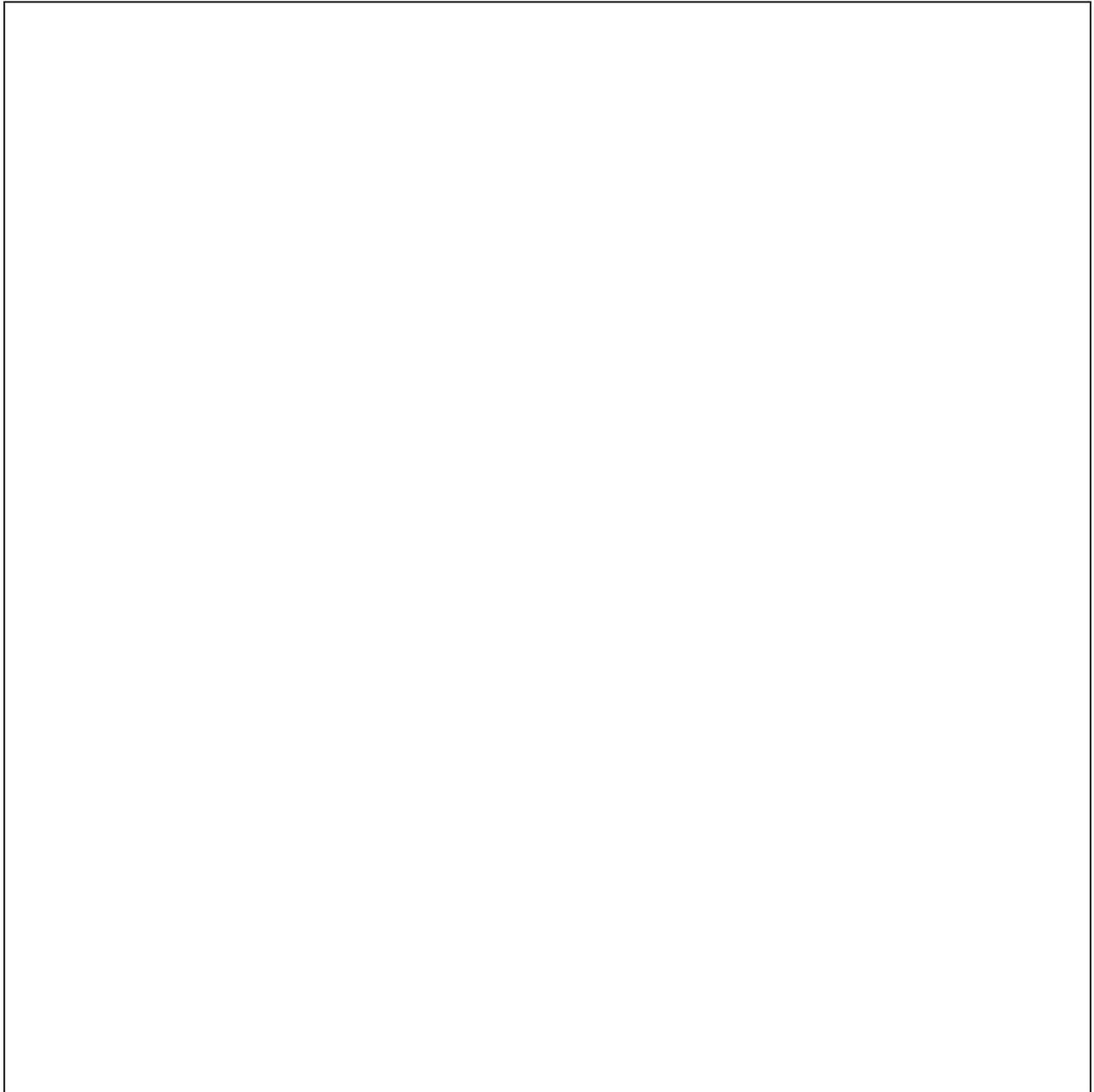
Further, many of the homes in the North Island are aging and are not well insulated. While my constituents would love to be able to retrofit their homes, the cost of doing so is usually prohibitive.

This dependency on BC Hydro as the sole source of fuel inevitably leads to people quickly finding themselves facing the second, higher, tier of billing. Fuel poverty is a reality for many people who come to my office: from seniors who have to make a choice between paying their electricity bill or buying groceries to families who see cost spiraling out of control and are faced with disconnection.

The choices people may have in the city are simply not available to the many people who live in rural and remote resource communities.

I would hope that the BCUC takes these concerns seriously and acts accordingly.

Yours sincerely,  
Claire Trevena, MLA



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