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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](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?

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Name (first and last)

City  Province

Email  Phone number

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# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Neil Harley

Date:

18-Nov-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 writing to protest what I consider to be an unfair system that penalizes low-income people. Specifically I am referring to the two-tiered billing for electricity.

While I can certainly understand the intent, encouraging everyone to try to conserve electricity, I feel it unfairly discriminates against those who rent, rather than own, their homes. I live in a townhouse that, like many rental properties, only has electric baseboard heating. During the winter months it is not unusual for our heaters to be running nearly 24/7 just to keep our place livable. Being on a fixed, disability income it can sometimes be a struggle just to meet our basic needs as well as pay high electricity bills. Given the current low vacancy rate and high rental costs moving is simply not an option for many like us. Your two-tiered business model is great incentive for homeowners but I think it is simply unfair to those of us who rent.

Perhaps, in the interest of fairness to all, you could modify your system such that it is only two-tiered for those in homes with central heating? Or maybe you could raise the threshold to the second tier for rental properties without gas? Life is enough of a struggle without you adding to it.

We have done everything we can to reduce our electricity usage but we are still paying too much. You need to understand that you are making life very hard for low-income users. There needs to be a public discussion about this problem to find a solution that is fair to all.

Sincerely,

Neil T. Harley