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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)

Erwin Schultz

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

# Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Erwin Schultz

Date:

20-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.

My wife and I are retirees living in a 40 year old house in [REDACTED]. In 2007, we installed a new heating system in our home. In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint and recognizing the new Carbon Tax in BC, we chose an air-source heat pump system, with an electric forced air furnace as a back-up.

We enjoyed clean affordable heat for several years. However, that all changed with the introduction of the Two -Tier electricity system. Although we have replaced doors and windows, installed LED lighting and lowered the thermostat, our electricity bills have risen sharply. We have gone from having some of the lowest heating costs in our neighbourhood to being among the highest. As the price of natural gas heating has plummeted, the cost of electricity continues to rise every year, especially in the higher tier, which we must pay, as it is our primary source of heat.

The warranty on our electric furnace expires next spring and we are already obtaining quotes to replace our furnace with a natural gas unit. Both estimates we have obtained ensure us that the pay-back for this change will be about four years, even though we are scrapping a perfectly fine electric furnace with another 15 years of probable life.

The two-tier system is a cookie-cutter approach which primarily benefits condo owners and apartment dwellers who have sold their homes to foreign investors and spend their winters in Arizona. It will force us to revert to burning fossil fuel as a heating source, which seems to be a regressive strategy. Our other option is to sell our home to a foreign investor, move into a condo and spend our winters in Arizona.