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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 Project No.3698845

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Melanie Reed

City

[REDACTED]

Province

B.C

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Melanie Reed

Date:

24-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 a resident of B.C. who has been adversely impacted by the block rate fee system.

The residential inclining block rate discriminates against individuals who have made the decision to be environmentally responsible by putting in geothermal systems.

When we built our house we decided to put in a geothermal system rather than gas to reduce our effective carbon footprint and protect the environment. It was an expensive installation and I did not expect that it would save us money, even in the long term; but we did it because it was the environmentally responsible thing to do. What I didn't expect was to be penalized for it!

We use no gas in our home but because we have a geothermal system, we use more electricity. Homeowners who have both gas and electric spread out their energy use, but they still use as much or more. Furthermore, the natural gas used to heat homes produces greenhouse gases, whereas, electricity produced from hydroelectric sources does not.

So the argument that residential block rate is rewarding those who use less energy is ridiculous. We are careful with our electricity consumption but will never be able to use less electricity than those individuals who use both gas and electric. It is an inappropriately punitive approach and I hope that it will not continue.