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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 Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party? Name (first and last) City Province Email Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Tom De Pauw

Date:

15-Aug-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.

We are family of six - on average - and we live in an area where natural gas is not available. We chose this location when we arrived in Vancouver over 25 years ago and we were promised cheaper electricity off-peak as they used to offer here in BC (and still is on offer in many parts of the world) and as they still offer to industry. Unfortunately, we did not qualify for that program which allows one to store heat in off-peak periods at a cheaper rate. Our electric heating system had been designed with that program in mind.

Our only alternative if we want to conserve electricity is to burn wood which has a negative environmental impact and pollutes the neighbours. Our neighbours also burn wood and depending on wind direction, we suffer from their emissions.

Like most homes, most of our energy consumption is for heat and hot water which normally would be created by using natural gas. When the two-tier conservation measure came into effect, the majority of our electricity went to the higher rate. We have no reasonable alternative.

We suffer in many ways:

- 1. We are penalized financially.**
- 2. In winter, there is smoke everywhere as many residents choose to burn wood to save on electricity. This is detrimental to our health.**
- 3. At times, depending on wind direction, we have to contact our neighbours to request that they reduce their burning of wood. This puts a strain on our relations with our neighbours.**

We have a large house to accommodate a big family - most of the time. We could have subdivided our house into several electricity accounts, each with their own meter. That would have reduced our total cost because the threshold to the higher rate is "per meter". But there must be a better way.

Given our lack of reasonable options, it seems totally unfair that we are subjected to second-tier pricing for most of the electrical energy we use. It would be a significant boost to our family budget, our health and to our relations with our neighbours if we were made exempt from two-tier pricing for electricity.