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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

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)

Brian Hatton

Date:

17-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.

My spouse and I are senior citizens and have resided in Whistler since 1993. Our house was new 1987, 2100 square feet and is heated by electric baseboard heaters supplemented by a high-efficiency wood fireplace. We are on fixed incomes and do not have access to natural gas. We try to minimize our environmental foot-print and are finding that since the inclining block electricity rates was introduced, we are paying substantially more for electricity. Before the RIB rate structure was introduced our average monthly power consumption was below \$100/month; we are now paying \$165/ month, and we are using less KWH than 4-5 years ago!

We have installed extra insulation and have installed high efficiency digital thermostats everywhere; we have done everything possible to lower our power usage, which we have done; and have made our house as energy efficient as possible.

There is absolutely no way that we can limit our electricity consumption to stay in block 1 so long as electricity is our main source of heat, and the only time our electricity consumption stays in Block 1 is in the high summer (2-3 months max.) I concur with others who have commented that this current incarnation of inclining block pricing is totally unfair. Had we the option of natural gas - or any other cheaper source of heating - we would take it in a flash. However, we do not. This inclining block pricing system is discriminatory against homeowners that can only use electricity for heating and should be relaxed or modified for those of us who have no option but to use electricity for heating. One suggestion I read in the letters of comments is that Block1 should be increased by the kwh's used to heat an average home with electricity? Then, after this increased block one allowance is used, the higher block 2 prices could kick in to encourage conservation. Basically the RIB conservation rate is poorly designed and poorly thought out; and should not discriminate against non- gas households.

For BC Hydro and Fortis to make the comment that 90% of BC consumers benefit from the RIB electricity rate structure is a totally invalid and out of context comment. Yes 90% of BC consumers benefit from the RIB rate structure because 90% of BC consumers have gas, and the only power they use is for lighting!

For Minister Bennett to make a comment/claim "that most electrically heated homes see lower overall bills under the RCR;" is pure political rhetoric ---- I challenge him to prove his comments which I know he cannot.

To classify the RIB rate structure as a conservation rate is absolutely ridiculous, houses that have to be heated by electricity, conservation is definitely not the description/word I would use!

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.