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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

RIB / Residential Conservation Rate Report (BCUC RIB Rate Report)

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

No

Name (first and last)

Peter and Cathy Harmer

City

[REDACTED]

Province

BC

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Peter and Cathy Harmer

Date:

1-Sep-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 became summer residents of [REDACTED], two years ago and own a home in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in a neighbourhood which does not have natural gas service. We are writing because we feel unfairly penalized by the current two tier pricing system. Since we took possession of the house, we have made improvements to windows, the heat duct work, and draft proofing. The home is 90% unoccupied during the heating season and we set the thermostat at 8 degrees C during our absences. Despite this, our electricity consumption this past heating season has been close to, or over ,the threshold for tier 2 in spite of the efforts we've made to improve the energy efficiency of our house. Should we occupy the house more consistently during the winter months, all of the electricity usage associated with our being there will be at a Tier 2 level. We do not have other options for heating the home, excepting a wood burning stove. We may be able to make further improvements in the energy efficiency of our home, but not sufficient to significantly reduce the Tier 2 consumption.

We understand the need to have a tiered system to encourage energy conservation, but feel that homeowners who don't have other heating options should not be under the same tier structure as homeowners who do have options. Consideration should be given to giving an exemption to remain in Tier 1 for home owners who do not have natural gas as an option ; or perhaps a different tier group should be established for these homeowners which is not as onerous as the current Tier 2 pricing.