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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)

Donna Munt

Date:

October 20, 2016

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 concern as a residential property owner residing in a rural area just west of the City of Prince George is the unfairness of the two tier electricity rates. We are 5 miles from the end of the natural gas line. For the line to reach us there would be a river crossing and less than 8 residents are located along the 5 miles. It just is not feasible to even consider bringing natural gas down. Our only heat options are electricity, wood, oil or propane. Our hot water can only be provided using electric hot water tank vs gas hot water again using more electricity.

I understand and support the concept of the two tier for people who have access to natural gas and trying to reduce their energy consumption. But for us our main source of heat is an electric force air furnace and we do use wood when it gets really cold. Our electricity costs over the past 5 years have increased over \$600 per year, meaning a 35% increase. With the household going down from 4 adults to 2 adults I would have expected the costs to not increase this much.

The two tier system penalizes rural property owners that do not have access to cheaper natural gas which is not an option for us. Consideration should be given to remove the two tiers from rural property owners. There are a lot of other challenges rural property owners face, no paved roads, no street lights, no utility services but we knew that when we moved to the country. There was no two tier electric rates at that time. This system is not fair and should be removed.