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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)

Stephen Fawcett

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.

Hello;

I live in █████, B.C. We aren't serviced with natural gas in █████, so all our home-heating options are rather expensive. My house is heated with electricity, with wood back-up. Over the years, I have upgraded my older house with insulation, double-glazed windows, a mini-split heat pump (which is great!), etc. in an effort to lower my heating costs and do my bit for the environment. But even with all those improvements, I find myself paying the upper-tier rate during the winter months.

I question the whole strategy of the two-tiered electricity billing system. It is clearly intended to "nudge" people into making better energy-use decisions. If I had the option of natural gas, it would nudge me in that direction, but that would be a bad decision for the environment! Electricity is the cleanest, most environment-friendly, form of energy that we have. All the new high-tech energy sources, such as solar and wind power, come in the form of electricity. So it seems environmentally counter-productive to nudge people away from electricity.

If we want to nudge people towards better energy-use, we should be two-tiering natural gas and heating oil, to gently push them towards electricity, and away from fossil fuels. Why is only electricity penalized in this way? What is the overall aim of this program, and does two-tiering only electricity move us in that direction?

Yours truly,

Stephen Fawcett