

**Date Submitted:** February 07, 2018

**Proceeding name:** FortisBC Inc. 2017 Cost of Service Analysis & Rate Design

**Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party:** No

**Name (first and last):** Robert Wishneski

**City:** [REDACTED]

**Province:** British Columbia

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Phone number:** [REDACTED]

**Comment:**

As a residential Fortis BC customer I have always felt the 2 tier system is unfair and unrealistic. People that only have electric heat in their homes, and even those with heat pumps, installed these heating systems as past utility operators assured an abundance of cheap, clean electricity. With today's costs of electricity heating your home during the winter months has resulted in extremely high bills and some customers are having a hard time making ends meet, especially when the tier 2 rate kicks in. I do agree that the two tier system should be eliminated but within certain guidelines. How is the rate differential going to be eliminated? Also with annual rate increases that will be coming are the increases going to apply to both rates? Some options to consider. 1) An immediate elimination of the 2 tier system, not over time, and the rates adjusted to a mid point between the two 2) Tier 1 rate stays the same and tier 2 reduces over time. 3) As the tier 1 rate increases the tier 2 rate should drop by the same % so that the rates stabilize in the middle. 4) The tier 2 rate frozen at existing levels and the tier 1 rate increased over time until they are equal. I realize that rates need to increase to cover increasing operating costs but the elimination of the 2 tier system should be fair and equitable during the elimination period. The current 2 tier system is totally unfair and I am glad to see it go. The 4 options listed above are all simple to initiate, and there are probably others that you will consider, but in fairness to all electricity customers it should not be a rush to the highest level. Personally I would like to see option #1. Thank you. Robert Wishneski [REDACTED]