

From: [TPUC DocketRoom](#)
To: [Sharla Dillon](#); [Ectory R. Lawless](#); [Dori Simpson](#)
Subject: FW: The crisis of utility shutoffs
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 6:07:41 PM

20-00047

From: Ashlee Hatfield <Ashlee.Hatfield@tn.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 6:07:39 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: TPUC DocketRoom <TPUC.DocketRoom@tn.gov>
Subject: FW: The crisis of utility shutoffs

From: Gloria La Riva <glorialariva@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 15, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Ashlee Hatfield <Ashlee.Hatfield@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The crisis of utility shutoffs

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Dear Ms. Hatfield:

I am part of the Stop the Shutoffs Committee in Nashville.

We know that [tens of thousands of Tennesseans have had their utilities shut off](#) by utility companies under the purview of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission since October 1, 2020. This is an unconscionable thing for utility companies to do during a global health pandemic and recession. People need utilities for basic living; they are a human right. Turning off water, electricity, waste management, and telephone services costs lives.

Therefore, we demand that all shut-offs be halted by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission and the Tennessee State Government during the Covid-19 pandemic. We also demand that there be a running tally of accumulated debt that is maintained during this time as well as programs of debt forgiveness. It is unrealistic to expect anyone to be able to pay off months of accumulating utility bills all at one time.

Meanwhile, we know that utility companies have meanwhile made record profits due to increased energy consumption from those of us isolating during the pandemic. These excess profits can and should be used to help forgive debts of those who need assistance paying or who are in arrears.

We have community support throughout Nashville behind our campaign. To date, we have written a petition demanding an end to shut-offs, and we have received almost 200 signatures by talking to every day Nashvillians. We have sent this petition to the TPUC several times but have received no response to date. As a public body, the TPUC has a duty to respond to the concerns of the people. We will not stop until our demands and the needs of all Tennesseans are met. I ask that you please publicly meet with the Stop the Shutoffs Committee or hold more public hearings regarding this crisis of shutoffs and debt accumulation.

Sincerely,

Gloria La Riva

415-312-6042