



## **KC TENANTS**

December 15, 2020

Chairman Ryan Silvey and Commissioners  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
200 Madison Street, PO Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Dear Chairman and Commissioners

KC Tenants, an organization of poor and working class tenants fighting for safe, accessible, and truly affordable homes for all in Missouri, is thrilled to join partnering organizations in calling for a utility disconnection moratorium through at least March 31, 2020. Millions have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are struggling to pay rent and utilities, in the middle of winter. The Public Service Commission must act to protect tenants and homeowners by keeping people safe in their homes and from the virus. This is not only a moral issue but a public safety one. Families must have a home to socially distance in, running water to wash their hands, and heat to stay warm.

The thought of having one's heat or water shut off during this perilous time is bad enough, but a utility disconnection is also grounds for eviction. We are seeing tenants, who through no fault of their own, have lost their income, scrambled enough money through friends, family or charity to pay their rent but could then not cover their electricity bill, be evicted, in the middle of December, during a global pandemic. This is truly unacceptable. Nationwide, millions have died because they were evicted or because they did not have basic necessities like heat and water in their homes. How many more have to die before action is taken?

A moratorium on disconnections through this exceptionally desperate winter would serve to allow residents to remain in their homes and reduce the risk of exposure to the virus as cases continue to climb here in Missouri. The Public Service Commission has the power to protect millions from the terrifying culmination that poverty, a global pandemic and greed has exposed the citizens of our state to. We urge the Chairman and Commissioners to do the right and responsible thing by enacting a moratorium on all utility disconnections before more of our neighbors die.

Sincerely,

Wilson Vance  
Campaign Manager  
KC Tenants