

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of a Motion for an)
Emergency Order Establishing a)
Temporary Moratorium on Utility)
Discontinuances to Protect Public)
Health and Safety by Mitigating the)
Spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic.) Case No. AO-2021-0164

SUPPLEMENTAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The Consumers Council of Missouri (“Consumers Council” or “CCM”), filed its Motion for Emergency Order (“Motion”), initiating this case on December 7, 2020. Several organizations wished to be part of this original filing on that date, but needed more time to officially express their support for the requested moratorium. Attached to this filing are letters of support for the Motion from the **Missouri Public Health Association** and from **AARP**.

Consumers Council respectfully asks that these letters be considered as supplemental additions to Attachment C of the Motion.

Dated: December 9, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John B. Coffman

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Attorney for Consumers Council of
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Missouri Public Health Association

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December 8, 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,

The Missouri Public Health Association, the largest voluntary public health organization in the State of Missouri, is pleased to join partnering organizations in calling for a utility disconnection moratorium through March 31, 2021, as an important public health step in reducing transmission of COVID-19. A moratorium on utility disconnections will address one of the most significant social determinants of health, namely that residents have access to a living environment that enhances their likelihood for health improvement and avoids negative risk.

It is, indeed, a critical part of our mission to advocate for all Missourians to have the resources they need to avoid the health consequences of poverty and to assure social justice in the full achievement of a healthy status.

We strive with our public health partners throughout the State, at the County, State and Federal levels to limit the spread of the virus causing the current pandemic. We have witnessed that the advent of cold and flu season, combined with cooler temperatures, have forced residents to spend more time indoors. Without adequate heating, forced by utility shut-offs, many are likely to move into even closer living conditions, reducing social distance, and, thereby increase the risk of exposure and infection.

A moratorium on disconnections through this perilous winter would serve to allow residents to remain in their homes and reduce the risk of exposure to the virus at a very critical time. It is our hope that such a moratorium will allow low-income Missourians the ability to avoid risk for death and disability and significantly improve their health status.

Sincerely,


Kristi Campbell, President

cc: Board Members



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

Dear Commissioners:

The COVID-19 Pandemic is only increasing in intensity throughout our state. Missourians of all ages, but most certainly those over age 50, have suffered severe illness and death from the coronavirus.

While the Public Service Commission usually occupies itself with issues related to consumer protection and justified rates, this is a health emergency that threatens the very health and lives of older Missourians.

When consumers face utility cut-offs, especially those who find themselves newly low-income due to the pandemic-caused recession, they do not always know where to turn for assistance. These Missourians often find themselves running all over their communities trying to find assistance from family, friends, their church and other non-profit organizations – the very activity that infectious disease experts warn against.

AARP Missouri would like to work with you to publicly call for a moratorium of utility service cut-offs throughout the winter, when experts believe that we will see the greatest spread of this deadly disease since the beginning of the pandemic.

Further, the Public Service Commission should partner with groups like ours to reach out to consumers and educate them on the resources available to help them pay their utility bills.

The Public Service Commission can play a vital role in bridging the gap between the current emergency and the promising vaccines that we all hope will be approved soon.

Thank you for your service to Missouri ratepayers and for your consideration of this small step that could save countless lives.

Sincerely,

Jay Hardenbrook
Associate State Director for Advocacy
AARP Missouri



Real Possibilities

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been emailed to the following persons on this 9th day of December, 2020. This list was derived from the Commission's EFIS contact query function. The intent was to reach as many potentially impacted utilities as possible with this courtesy service.

/s/ John B. Coffman

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