

Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area

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December 14, 2020

Chairman Ryan Silvey and Commissioners
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, PO Box 360

Chairman and Commissioners:

Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area and staff have dedicated themselves to assisting those with low incomes since 1965. Our work has given us a unique perspective on poverty and its effectiveness on citizens' health.

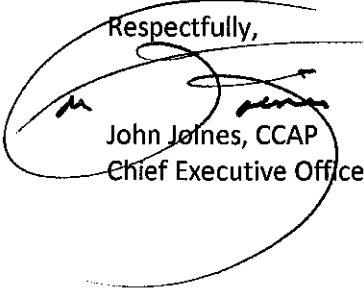
I am writing to express our support for the request for an emergency order filed by the Consumers Council of Missouri to institute a moratorium on utility disconnections until March 31, 2021. We believe this is a critical part of our state's response to the pandemic and is key in ensuring the safety of the people we serve.

In recent weeks, COVID-19 cases have surged around the nation and the state. More than a quarter of a million Americans have lost their lives. Meanwhile, countless Missourians have been thrust into unemployment or under-employment through no fault of their own, resulting in many finding themselves in poverty.

To combat the virus, public health officials have consistently urged citizens to shelter at home. Utility shut off could make this impossible for those who have been economically impacted by this virus.

Through a moratorium, the Public Service Commission could help limit the scope of the virus and its impact on Missourians. **YOU CAN SAVE LIVES.** You can make sure that citizens are not forced onto the streets during one of the most trying times in the history of our nation. We strongly urge you to give full consideration to the Consumers Council of Missouri's request.

Respectfully,



John Joines, CCAP
Chief Executive Officer