

Christ Church UCC  
2200 Bellevue Avenue  
Maplewood, MO 63143  
December 13, 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,

Christ Church is a congregation of the United Church of Christ in Maplewood, MO. We are deeply involved in the life of the community we serve, and we have seen the great stress many families are experiencing during this COVID-19 pandemic. All families have been impacted by this health crisis, however, essential workers and those with low-wage jobs are suffering the greatest hardship and despair.

We are writing in support of the request for an emergency order being filed by the Consumers Council of Missouri which calls for a winter moratorium on utility disconnections. Maintaining utilities is essential for the health and well-being of residents. Losing utilities often leads to eviction. Unhoused families are then forced into overcrowded situations with friends/relatives or into emergency shelters which greatly increases the risk of transmitting COVID-19. This winter, when many are working from home, children are attending school on-line, and essential workers are having to quarantine after exposure, maintaining stable housing is more critical than ever. Having a winter moratorium on utility disconnections will help ensure continuity of housing during this health emergency.

We are asking the Public Service Commission to take action to protect the well-being of our most vulnerable neighbors by imposing a winter moratorium on utility disconnections. Together, we can bring a ray of hope into our world where it is needed the most.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rebecca Turner  
Pastor

Christ Church UCC      [www.maplewooducc.org](http://www.maplewooducc.org)      314.644.3033