



Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Office of the Attorney General

Attorney General  
Daniel Cameron

Capitol Building, Suite 118  
700 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
(502) 696-5300  
Fax: (502) 564-2894

June 22, 2020

Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky, Et al.  
306 West Main Street  
#207  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Kentucky Advocates,

Thank you for your June 8 letter outlining concerns with utility disconnections and potential rate increases resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Kentucky faces incredible challenges in light of a near total shutdown during the pandemic. Roughly 45 percent of the state's workforce has filed for unemployment, and our economy faces a long road to recovery.

In light of these concerns, I sent a letter on May 4, 2020, to Public Service Commission Chairman Schmitt, Vice Chairman Cicero, and Commissioner Matthews urging them to consider continuing the "Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19" to assist with potential issues that ratepayers and utility companies may face following the pandemic.

In the letter, which I have enclosed, I put forth actions for the Commission to consider, with the goal of mitigating any additional burden on Kentucky ratepayers. These actions include:

- Requirements for customer payment plans, including interest free for a specific period;
- A moratorium on disconnects for a specific period after the emergency ends;
- Waiver of late fees;
- Waivers of reconnect fees;
- Waiver or reduction of deposits to obtain connection for service;
- Extended payment plans for deposits;
- Extensions of disconnect dates;
- Additional pay-as-you-go options;

- Utilization and expansion of assistance programs;
- Utility financial and rate requirements.

These are just a few of the ideas that should be considered to help ratepayers and regulated utilities during these uncertain times. Our office stands ready to assist in these conversations, and we appreciate your correspondence and advocacy on behalf of Kentuckians.

Sincerely,



Daniel Cameron  
Attorney General

Enclosure: Letter to Public Service Commission, May 4, 2020

Cc: 100% REAL  
Advocacy Action Network  
Apogee Climate & Energy Society  
A very and Sun Solar  
Coalition for the Homeless  
Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky, Inc.  
Gateway Homeless Coalition, Inc.  
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy  
Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Kentucky Conservation Committee  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth  
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light  
Kentucky Solar Energy Society  
Kentucky Student Environment Coalition  
Kentucky Voices for Health  
Mental Health America of Kentucky  
McNary Group  
Metropolitan Housing Coalition  
Mountain Association for Community Economic Development  
Olive Branch Ministries  
Shelter of Hope, Inc.  
Sierra Club, Kentucky Chapter

Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky, Et al.

June 22, 2020

Page 3 of 3

Sunrise Movement – Bowling Green

Sunrise Movement – Murray



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DANIEL CAMERON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

CAPITOL BUILDING, SUITE 118  
700 CAPITOL AVENUE  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601  
(502) 696-5300  
FAX: (502) 564-2894

May 4, 2020

Michael J. Schmitt, Chairman  
Robert Cicero, Vice Chairman  
Talina R. Matthews, Commissioner  
Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 615  
211 Sower Boulevard  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

Dear Commissioners:

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unique challenges to the Commonwealth and the Nation. I applaud the actions taken by the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) to ensure that the Commonwealth’s citizens continue to receive reliable utility service during this state of emergency, and I am grateful to utility companies for actions they have taken to assist consumers. However, as I am certain the Commission is actively considering its next steps, now is the time to plan ahead for the cessation of the emergency and return to normalcy. When utility disconnects resume, an extraordinary number of customers will face disconnection due to the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic. In addition, the financial health of some utilities is an area deserving of Commission attention.

I encourage the Commission to consider continuing action under docketed case # 2020-00085, entitled “Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19,” to address future issues that will occur in the aftermath of the emergency. Possible actions for consideration by the Commission include:

- requirements for customer payment plans, including interest free for a specific period
- a moratorium on disconnects for a specific period after the emergency ends
- waivers of late fees
- waivers of reconnect fees
- waivers or reduction of deposits to obtain connection for service
- extended payment plans for deposits

May 4, 2020  
Chairman Michael J. Schmitt  
Page 2

- extensions of disconnect dates
- additional pay-as-you-go options
- utilization and expansion of assistance programs
- utility financial and rate requirements

Undoubtedly, the Commission is considering these issues and options, as well as others.

The Office of Attorney General is ready to participate in the Commission's proceedings on these issues. While this situation is a difficult one, an opportunity exists for policy-makers and business leaders to ease the financial burden of this current state of emergency on consumers—and regulated utilities—as we transition to reopening Kentucky's economy. My Office of Rate Intervention looks forward to participating in these discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cameron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Daniel Cameron  
Attorney General