



Cunningham Township
Danielle Chynoweth, Supervisor
205 WEST GREEN ST • URBANA, IL 61801
(217) 384-4144 • FAX: (217) 367-7063
WWW.CUNNINGHAMTOWNSHIP.ORG

December 10th, 2020

Utility Shut offs

Hundreds of Urbana residents have faced utility shut offs this Fall during the height of the pandemic. The Sanitary District, a public body, has not enacted shut offs. Last month 33 elected leaders and over 300 local residents signed a letter organized by CUPHD calling on the Governor and both corporations to immediately end all shut offs for non-payment. Thanks to Advocacy by State Representation Carol Ammons office, Julie Pryde from CUPHD and I met with the leadership of both Ameren and Illinois American Water. In addition, the City of Champaign has tabled its standard renewal agreement with Ameren for two meetings asking for resolution of our concerns. Thanks to this pressure, Ameren ended shut-offs two weeks early. 68 households in Champaign and Urbana remain with their power shut off, representing \$59,793 in bills.

Water shut offs remain a concern. At Township we are using Angel Donor funds to support immediate reconnection of disconnected water (and formerly power) in Urbana. We have reconnected 5 families to water in 2 weeks. For those behind on bills, we are referring them to LIHEAP, Salvation Army and City of Urbana's COVID CDBG program. A consortium of agencies is convening to increase outreach to impacted families, with a TV ad, mailing and other activities planned. We are asking both companies to include more detailed information about local support in their disconnection mailings. The Governor needs to enact a moratorium on utility shut-offs and local leaders need to do everything in their capacity to stop these.

Library Services for Homeless Urbana Residents

Last month was library sign up card month. If people cannot provide proof of Urbana residency/taxpayer status, they can't get a card according to Illinois State law. There are Urbana residents who have proved to the Township that they are living in Urbana, but have circumstances which make their addresses unstable or unreliable. For example, some people are couch-surfing with friends, family or even strangers. These potential cardholders have expressed that they would like to use TUFL and would like to get a library card, but feel uncomfortable or unable to use that temporary address as their library card proof of residence.

TUFL and the Township have been talking about the appropriate legal mechanism to be able to provide library service. The proposed intergovernmental agreement is to expand library services to qualified homeless Urbana residents, that is, people who have been screened by Cunningham Township as residing within the City of Urbana but who do not have a stable or reliable address. This IGA will remove barriers to access to both physical and online materials which are available 24/7. The Township will be the responsible party for items checked out by these residents, and it will promote TUFL services to all the people they serve and their staff. The Township will pay for damaged items or those that are not returned, but we won't pay overdue fines. We are basing the 6 month limit on the card and limit of 10 physical items, similar to the arrangement with CU at Home in Champaign. People who are homeless and are living at CU at Home can get a card through the Champaign Public Library, because the Phoenix Center is located in Champaign.

CURE Act Funding

Cunningham Township has been allocated \$204,228 in funding for COVID related expenses. We have been approved so far for \$91,291 in expenses and plan to use the rest. We have also requested an additional \$250,702. We will know in January whether this additional allocation is approved. The great new is that food support, COVID rental assistance, and some of our grants to social services agencies, along with all of our COVID related staffing costs appear reimbursable.

Town Bills

- Town fund = \$130,304.28
- General Assistance Fund = \$99,907.45 in expenditures
- TOTAL: \$230,211.73 in expenditures

General Assistance

Monthly support for Urbana residents who are disabled or out of work.

- 136 Current Participants (down from 139): 7 closed & 3 opened
- 56 are homeless (60 last month)
- 81 males / 55 females / 0 transgender or gender non-conforming
- 44 is the average age
- NOTE: Community Work Program remained closed in November 2020

Rental Assistance

One-time assistance to prevent eviction and homelessness.

- 2 Rental Assistance (down from 6 last month)
- NOTE: Starting December 1st we are providing two months of assistance for eviction prevention and deposit and first month's rent for move-ins for the homeless. We expect to see an increase in households who are able pay off their total rental arrears with this level of support.

Additional Assistance

10 households helped in November

- 3 families with children housed through emergency housing this month, and 9 for the FY with an average hotel stay of 39 days.
- Partnerships being established with USD116 and Crisis Nursery as the primary referring agencies.
- 7 participants helped with Angel Donor Funds for applications fees, move-in voucher or utility pay-off assistances

Housing Advocacy

76 people helped in FY21

Our Housing Advocacy team supports township participants to apply for available housing subsidizes.

- 76 of our most vulnerable participants (representing 64 households) helped to apply for subsidized housing to 7 housing opportunities this FY.
- 14 have moved into subsidized housing with several more almost complete this FY.

Disability Advocacy

3 participants approved for SSI payments in Nov.

Our Disability Advocacy Team supports township participants to apply for SSI/SSDI and access supportive resources. NOTE: GA ends when SSI begins. CTSO receives reimbursement from Social Security for GA payments made during the time of their disability.

- Last month we lost two participants who passed away while awaiting disability payments, raising the number to 5 deaths this year.

Food Support

2704 residents fed through Bucket Brigade since March 25

Stay-at-home food and safety provisions during COVID-19 for very low-income residents (In partnership with the Channing Murray Foundation).

- Buckets: 912 (Since March 25)
- People served: 2704 (Since March 25) Including 1034 children

Request volume

7 calls every 1 hour. 163 applicants picked up per month.

- 1120 Incoming calls to CTSO for November = 53 per work day or 7 per hour, about double the volume from before COVID-19. The township employees spent 40 hours over the phone and made 142 texts in November answering questions and facilitating the needs of our participants.
- A total of 760 applications (157 electronic and 603 paper) General Assistance Applications have left our office since March 2020 or 84 per month.
- A total of 774 (110 electronic and 664 paper) Rental Assistance applications have left our office since March 2020 or 79 per month.



Danielle Chynoweth
Cunningham Township Supervisor



Richard J. Mark
President
Ameren Illinois

December 4, 2020

Senator Scott Bennett
45 E. University Ave, Suite 206
Champaign, IL 61820

Representative Carol Ammons
407 E. University Ave, Suite A
Champaign, IL 61820

RE: Request for Responses to Questions Related to Disconnections in Champaign, Illinois

Dear Senator Bennett and Representative Ammons:

I wanted to get back with you in response to our November 30, 2020 conversation we had with regard to Ameren Illinois' disconnection policy, procedures and disconnections of customers in Champaign. During that conversation two questions were asked on which I wanted to get more information to you: 1) will Ameren Illinois review the 100 customer accounts in that area and determine if there are people residing in those residences and the total dollar amount that they represent? and 2) can Ameren Illinois provide the list of affected customers to the health department earlier to allow the health department to have more time to reach out to those customers? We have had an opportunity to review these questions and provide our responses.

1. Will Ameren Illinois review the 100 customer accounts in that area and determine if there are people residing in those residences and the total dollar amount that they represent?

Response: At this time, there are currently 68 customers in the Champaign-Urbana area who were disconnected for non-payment and whose utilities at those specific premises remain off. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing if any of these customers are indeed still residing at the location. Typically, many customers leave without requesting a shut off. Currently, of the remaining 68 customers that are still disconnected, the account balance for these customers total approximately \$59,793. Based on further review of these accounts, all but one account is eligible for a reduced reconnect per 83 IL Admin Code 280.180. This section states that non-low income customers may reconnect for 1/3 of the balance. If the customer is found to be low-income qualified through LIHEAP, they can reconnect for 1/5 of the outstanding balance.

2. Can Ameren Illinois provide the list of affected customers to the health department earlier to allow the health department to have more time to reach out to those customers?

Response: Section 220 ILCS 5/8-202(b) of the Public Utilities Act requires utilities to "deliver written notice of intention to terminate or cut off such service or supply for any

reason, other than by request of the customer, to the Director of the local **department of public health** or, if there is **no local department of public health**, then to the **township supervisor** or, if there is no township supervisor, then to the **county sheriff** where the premises receiving such service or supply is located." The statute specifically states that the notice required by paragraph (b) "shall be delivered or mailed at least 24 hours and **not more than 48 hours** prior to the termination of service or supply." 220 ILCS 5/8-202. At this point we have legal concerns about violating customer's privacy and confidentiality rights by releasing this data outside of state guidelines.

I'd also like to bring to your attention an e-mail we received from the City of Champaign (the City) to Ameren Illinois dated November 24, 2020. The City indicated that they were working with Champaign County partners on two priorities which were: 1) restoring power to those households that were disconnected prior to November 18; and 2) working with households that may face disconnection beginning in April 2021 due to past bills. The City further indicated that their goal was to connect eligible households who may be facing disconnection with resources to assist them during this troubling time.

In their email, the City had several questions. We have had the opportunity to review their questions. Below are the responses we have provided to them.

1. There is interest from Regional Planning Commission (RPC) to provide outreach to *all* Champaign County residents who are currently disconnected. Please consider sharing the full list of still disconnected households to RPC.

Response: The Public Utilities Act specifically outlines the legal process to provide local health departments with the list of potential disconnections. Due to customer data privacy and confidentiality, we are unable to provide a list of households that remain disconnected to RPC. A community outreach and public awareness program appears to be the best way to reach those in need. A consortium of social service organizations may be the best to contact these individuals.

2. You outlined the steps from disconnection: final bill to collections. Can you please provide a rough time frame for these steps to occur? Also, once someone is sent to collection, if providers are working towards paying their balance as required, is that balance being paid directly to Ameren or to the collection agency in order to restore connection?

Response: Once an account is disconnected, it stays active for approximately eight (8) days awaiting an action from the customer either in the form of a payment or a pledge from an assistance agency. After eight (8) days the account is closed and a final bill is mailed which is due twenty-one (21) days after issuance. If the final bill is not paid, the customer receives a phone call and an email if an email address has been provided. If the customer takes no action, the account is referred to a collection agency approximately thirty-five (35) days after the final bill due date elapses. If providers are working to assist a customer with bill payment, the providers work directly with Ameren Illinois and payments are remitted to Ameren Illinois rather than the collection agency.

Additionally, the City provided a list of questions which are related to their work with customers that as result of Ameren Illinois' voluntary moratorium and the winter moratorium, will not be disconnected, until after the end of the winter moratorium:

1. We are encouraging residents who are concerned about the ability to pay to contact Ameren directly *first* to let the utility know what their hardship is. Can you please let us know what are the documents that customer will need to provide to move successfully through the hardship process and not move to disconnect? Our goal is to educate residents what is needed to help them achieve success with your process. If it is referral to LIHEAP, Lisa has provided that information to us locally. This question relates to those cases that may not be a LIHEAP referral from Ameren to RPC.

Response: Customers who are concerned about the ability to pay should contact Ameren Illinois to discuss payment arrangements and agencies with available funding that may assist. No documentation from the customer is required for these discussions. Ameren Illinois' fuel fund administered by the Energy Assistance Foundation, Warm Neighbors Cool Friends, is designed to help customers struggling to pay their utility bills whose income may exceed the guidelines established by LIHEAP. Documentation of household income is required as a part of the application process. Agencies serving the Champaign/Urbana area can be found on the "Warm Neighbors Cool Friends" website, www.warmneighborscoolfriends.org.

2. What are the disconnection parameters? Is it by the number of days that someone is delinquent, by a certain delinquent dollar threshold, or some other measure? While we are wanting to work with all households that may be in need, we recognize that our funds may be limited. It will be helpful for the local agencies to prioritize assistance going forward to those most at risk of disconnection come April if they are still delinquent.

Response: The potential for disconnection occurs for all customers who have received a disconnection notice and have failed to take action in the form of either a payment, a payment agreement or a pledge from an assistance agency. The notice allows a customer eight (8) business days to take action.

3. Can Ameren provide the list of delinquent accounts, or *pending disconnection notices*, to the LIHEAP provider, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, with enough advance time that they can reach out/place outbound calls prior to the disconnect? As an example, there was not enough time with the legally required disconnection notices to public health earlier in November to truly provide outreach, particularly in a pandemic when face-to-face is discouraged. Additionally, by having only addresses and names (not phone numbers and, when possible, emails), it is labor intensive even outside of a pandemic for an agency to provide outreach door-to-door. We would ask that you partner with RPC to provide as much information as possible via the agreement that you referenced last week to set RPC up for success in reaching customers prior to the disconnection taking place.

Response: Presently and through March 31, 2021, Ameren Illinois is in our winter moratorium on disconnects for non-payment. Therefore, no further notifications are necessary at this time. We can only provide that information to the Director to the local health department under Section 220 ILCS 5/8-202(b) of the Public Utilities Act which requires utilities to "deliver written notice of intention to terminate or cut off such service or supply for any reason, other than by request of the customer, to the Director of the local **department of public health** or, if there is **no local department of public health**, then to the **township supervisor** or, if there is no township supervisor, then to the **county sheriff** where the premises receiving such service or supply is located." The statute specifically states that the notice required by paragraph (b) "shall be delivered or mailed at least 24 hours and **not more than 48 hours** prior to the termination of service or supply." 220 ILCS 5/8-202. Beginning November 2021, we will commit to including the phone numbers that we have for these customers to help facilitate outreach to them.

4. Finally, community partner agencies currently use a shared consent form that allows a customer to agree to multiple agencies to provide services. We understand that the first contact from RPC will be contractually bound between Ameren and RPC. Our intent is for RPC to seek joint consent from the customer if they express interest in utility assistance. This will allow for seamless transition for those customers that may not be eligible for LIHEAP or Fresh Start, or who may need additional assistance after they receive LIHEAP or Fresh Start. I am attaching a sample Cunningham Township application form where you can see the signed consent at the end of the document and a list of agencies that may be able to provide additional services to the household.

Response: Ameren Illinois is obligated by law to protect private customer information. We cannot disseminate credit and collection information concerning past due balances, names, addresses, and disconnection history outside of a legal requirement to do so. We do provide information concerning disconnections consistent with the law with public health organizations. We have to take precautions to provide that information in a private and secure manner to that organization. We understand that public health organizations can and do coordinate with municipal governmental authorities, but we advise that customer consent should be obtained before information is transmitted or disseminated to entities other than the public health organization.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard J. Mark
President

cc: Danielle Chynoweth
Julie Pryde
Jim Morphew

Brice Sheriff
Brian Leonard

November 12, 2020

Re: Utility Disconnections During the Pandemic

Dear Governor Pritzker, Members of the Illinois Commerce Commission, Richard Mark CEO of Ameren Illinois, Justin Ladner, President, Illinois American Water

We are a Champaign County based group representing public health, township offices, local and county governments, social service agencies, healthcare providers, faith-based communities, and concerned citizens.

We write to you with alarm that Champaign Urbana Public Health District has received notice of 250 disconnects for non-payment in Champaign County since November 4th. A door-to-door survey of some of those listed shows that they include residents who are disabled, elderly, or have low-literacy.

We are urging you to impose a statewide moratorium on all utility disconnections during this COVID-19 pandemic.

People are struggling with illness, job loss, childcare issues, loss of savings, housing, and now possibly the disconnection of crucial utilities if they fall behind on payments.

Disconnected utilities are disruptive at any time, but during a pandemic, especially in the winter of a pandemic, it can be deadly. We know that utility disconnections often cause people to move in with friends or relatives, and this often causes overcrowding. During this pandemic, overcrowding will likely mean needlessly exposing vulnerable persons to infection, hospitalization and possibly death. Once the virus enters into a household it is very difficult to prevent spread. When housing is overcrowded or multi-generational, the results can be devastating.

We would add that this comes at a time when COVID cases in Champaign County are reaching our highest levels of community spread to date. This is expected to get worse through the next several months. On this date, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District has 609 persons with COVID in isolation and an additional 1,565 persons in quarantine.

Please allow us to fight this devastating pandemic without adding another barrier to keeping people safely housed. Stop utility disconnections immediately.

Respectfully,

Julie A. Pryde, Administrator, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District

Utility disconnections during a pandemic are especially dangerous as they may force people to share overcrowded living spaces to keep warm and to have water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and toileting.

Carol Ammons, State Representative 103rd District

It has become quite clear that we are in the darkest hours of this pandemic and as such, we must protect the people of this state from falling further into fiscal disrepair. It is unconscionable for us to leave our residents without power as the winter season approaches. I encourage Illinois' energy suppliers to keep the lights on for so many who have struggled with the darkness of this global crisis.

Scott Bennett, State Senator

Darlene Kloeppe, Champaign County Executive

This issue adversely affects both urban and rural residents of our county at a time when households are struggling with financial issues of all kinds to remain afloat. I encourage you to actively consider a plan not only to provide a moratorium during this pandemic, but to assist households with developing payment plans to prevent disconnection due to large bills following this difficult time.

Diane W. Marlin, Urbana Mayor

We've been working day and night to protect the health of the community since March. We are now seeing an alarming increase in COVID cases, hospitalizations, and death as we enter the winter months. We must keep the heat and water on so people can remain in their homes.

Deb Frank Feinen, Champaign Mayor

Similar to wearing a mask and social distancing, the ability to remain home is an integral part of staying healthy during this pandemic. Keeping the power and water on allows our residents to safely shelter during the winter season and helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I encourage our utility providers to stand with us for the health of our community and to stop the disconnections. The Champaign City Council joins me in support of a moratorium on disconnections and has shown that support by tabling a license agreement with Ameren which allows the utility to utilize City right of ways while requesting that Ameren address the issues associated with its disconnection policies.

Danielle Chynoweth, Supervisor Cunningham Township

Ameren's so-called 'voluntary moratorium' for utility shutoffs is not working. I have personally spoken with residents who attempted to set up payment plans, reached out to apply for utility support, or who were simply unaware until the power went out. I spoke with a mother with three young children, a senior citizen, a man with a disability, and a woman dealing with domestic violence - they are all facing shutoffs.

Andy Quarnstrom, Supervisor City of Champaign Township

Mike Ingram, Champaign County Recorder of Deeds Elect

Cassandra Johnson, Champaign County Treasurer Elect

Wayne Williams, Cunningham Township Assessor

Elizabeth Sotiropoulos, Unit 4 Board of Education Member

Tori Exum, USD 115 Board of Education Member

Jordan Humphrey, Champaign County Board District District 5

Leah Taylor, Champaign County Board District 5

DeShawn Williams, Champaign County Board District 6

Kyle Patterson, Champaign County Board District 7

Eric Thorsland, Champaign County Board District 7

Stephanie Fortado, Champaign County Board District 8

Emily Rodriguez, Champaign County Board District 8

Jennifer Straub, Champaign County Board District 9

Steve Summers, Champaign County Board District 9

Mary King, Champaign County Board District 10

Chris Stohr, Champaign County Board District 10

Tatianna Ammons, Champaign County Board District 11

We are heading into the winter months, no one should worry about heat and lights for their family.

Julie Laut, Urbana City Council Ward 2

Shirese Hursey, Urbana City Council Ward 3

Bill Brown, Urbana City Council, Ward 4

Dennis Roberts, Urbana City Council Ward 6

Maintaining heat and electricity service in the home is a necessity as we enter the winter months during a virus pandemic which has eliminated jobs and undermined the ability of low income residents to meet utility payments. As a matter of community public health and human decency, I am signing this petition addressed to Governor Pritzker, members of the Illinois Commerce Commission, and Richard Mark, CEO of Ameren Illinois, asking them to agree to a mandatory, state-wide moratorium on utility shutoffs and disconnections. Many households in the community are already stressed by the effects of the pandemic; many are facing possible eviction or food scarcities. Let us not add the threat of losing heat and electricity in the home during this time of crisis.

Jared Miller, Urbana City Council Ward 7

Jeff Crabill, Bloomington City Council

Dr. Anita Ung, MD, MPH, UIUC College of Medicine

This is critical to the economic health of our community, as well as the lives of our community members.

Ali Mirza, UIUC Student Trustee

Emiliano Vera, Democratic Precinct Committeeperson, McDonough County

In solidarity from other downstate counties, the state must immediately suspend utility shutoffs in order to protect our families.

Allan Max Axelrod, Campaign Lead, #NoAmerenShutoffs

Listen to experts Governor Pritzker, as you insisted you would since the pandemic began.

Debra Schrishuhn, Chapter Leader, Central IL Chapter, Progressive Democrats of America

Esther Patt, Executive Director, Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union

So many applicants have not yet received rent assistance or help with their bills. They should not be constructively evicted by termination of water, heat or electricity.

Adani Sanchez, Client Services Coordinator, Champaign County Healthcare Consumers

Please consider the health impacts of shutting off water and turning off heat during the winter of a pandemic. A commitment to curbing the virus means a commitment to keeping our communities warm to prevent other illnesses that might make them susceptible to the virus, with water to wash their hands, and in their homes where they can safely isolate.

Bethany Little, Executive Director, WIN Recovery

James Kilgore, Co-Director, First Followers

We need to ensure people's basic necessities. This is first priority for all of us.

James Corbin, II, Social Advocate, First Followers

We must find a way to keep the lights on. Lives are depending on it!

Rev. Florence Caplow, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana- Champaign

This is critically important for the most vulnerable members of our community during this pandemic.

Rev. Amy Thoren, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

Patricia Robinson, HR Director, CU Public Health District

Cameron Raab, Co-Founder, CU Indivisible

Gloria Yen, Director, New American Welcome Center

Anne Robin, MD, Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board

Sr. Karen Carlson, SSCM, LSW, OSF Healthcare Community Resource Center

With so many families having experienced layoffs and the expiration of their unemployment benefits, adding loss of power to the list of difficulties is unconscionable. It has the added effect of those attending online classes being unable to participate. Please help those who are already suffering enough.

Christina Moutray, Behavioral Health Clinician, LifeLinks

Paula Hancock, Executive Director, McKinley Foundation, UIUC

Robert Garcia, Founder, Progressive Voices of Central IL

It's time for us to do the right thing and enact a State Imposed Moratorium on Utility Shut-offs.

Jason Michael Hendrix, Organizer, HITNHOMEBOY

It's time for us to do the right thing and enact a State Imposed Moratorium on Utility Shut-offs.

Samuel Richardson, President, Social Justice Coalition

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser, Pastor, Community UCC

William KT Brown, CEO, HV NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSFORMATION

On behalf of HVNT we support this petition to ensure that all our High Hope areas, which are disproportionately impacted, remain with utilities on throughout these rough and trying times.

Zhenya Polozova, Regional Midwest Organizer, Food and Water Action

Citlaly Stanton, Client Resources Advocate, University YMCA

Aaron Umbarger

Stop trying to "balance interests" when one side's interest is securing their basic needs and the other side's interest is exploiting those needs for profit. Did we make the mistake of trading one classist for another?

Aishwarya Shekara, Student Advocacy Coalition

Allison Nisley

Alyx McElfresh

Amanda Harris

Amber Anderson

Amy Clay

Amy Clay-Moore

Amy Hassinger

Ana Olguin

Andi Phillips

Mrs. Andrea Welty Peachey

Andy Wszalek

Angela Waarala

Anita Hund

Ann Hart

Anne Lukeman

Ariel Naveh, Rabbi

Ashley Lucas

Ashlie Velazquez

Athan Chilton, Concerned Elder Citizen

Audrey Dombro

Austin Lewis

Beau Barber, Very Concerned Citizen

This volunteer effort we are putting forth here is herculean, but not sustainable and not sufficient enough to get everyone and resolve the problem. People will suffer if there is no utility moratorium and, especially during a pandemic, this is the last thing we should be worried about.

Belden Fields, Professor Emeritus UIUC

Mr. Benjamin Theobald

Please support a state imposed moratorium on utility shutoffs.

Beth Van

Beverly Thomas

Brandon Adams

Dr. Brandon Ritchison

Brian Franklin

Bronwyn Cain

Bruce Goettel

Cameron Crombie, Lakefront DSA

Carol Inskeep

Cassidy Ward

Catherine Meehan

Catherine Wiesener

Cathleen Sawyer

Cathy Digges

Please help protect our most vulnerable residents as winter approaches.

Celina Trujillo

Charlene Stevens, Progressive Democrats of America

Christa Weiss

Christina De Angelo

Copenhaver Cumpston

Corinne Banach

Courtney Dawdy

Crystal Bailey

Cynthia Cunningham

Cynthia Hoyle, Hoyle Consulting

Danielle McFarland

Dawn Carson

Dawn Navejas

Dennis Dullea, Retired UIUC Faculty

Diana Mosher

DoMonique Arnold

The world is in crisis. We need to have compassion and not turn off basic utilities during the winter during a GLOBAL PANDEMIC.

Dr. Courtney Cuthbertson

Dr. Ravishankar Hasanadka, MD

Dr. Virginia Husting

Drake Materre, Natural Path Nutrition Inc.

Echo Moore

Eddie Pratt Jr

Edith Rosillo

Elias Decker, Party for Socialism and Liberation

Elizabeth Asako Kinase-Leggett

Elizabeth Hogan

My son and his classmates all received bags from Ameren to help weatherproof our homes. I thought this was a lovely gesture UNTIL I found out that Ameren was turning off power in the middle of a pandemic. This act of cruelty must stop.

Elizabeth Ruby

I am one of the 600+ people in covid isolation. I have means and am not worried about paying my bills but my anxiety is extremely high and I can't imagine how people would cope with this illness while also worrying about having working utilities. Please issue a moratorium on utility shutoffs.

Ellen de Waard, Unitarian Universalist Church Urbana Champaign

Emily Kerlin

Please help ensure that we are caring for our most vulnerable neighbors during this pandemic!!!!

Eddy Almonord

Ennio Nuila

Erica Currey

Erin Dobbs

Erin Ewoldt

Erinn Thomas

At this time more than ever we should choose compassion and empathy. These are unique times, people are struggling for reasons that were not in their control and they should not be punished or deemed unworthy of having basic utilities (and needs).

Esther Murray

I believe this moratorium on utility shutoffs would be the just and compassionate action to

people already struggling in this tumultuous year.

Felipe Menanteau

Felix Franken

Gabrielle Elkins

Geraldine Theobald, Sierra Club

If we want to stop the spread of covid, this is mandatory.

Gregory Kontos, Sunrise Normal

Hannah Christensen

Heather Munson

Hilker, Southern Illinois Citizens for Change

Indrani Sengupta

Isis Estes, USPS Window Clerk

J. Beverly

Jacqueline Hannah

Jake Fava, Siebel Center for Design

James Dobbs

Various power companies make plenty of money in Illinois. LIHEAP is an inadequate band-aid even in better times. Power, shelter, food, and water are necessities of life, and if our State Government truly exists to serve the Citizens of Illinois, how can we not provide these bare-bones basics to all our residents?

Jamie Hines

Jamie Storm

Janasha Stuckey

Janessa Wildermuth

Janice Walker, Public Health Moms Demand Action

Janicka Menefee

Jared Fritz

Jasmine Routon

Jazmine Hernandez, Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office

Jenna Keller

Jennifer Bowman

Please don't shutoff because covid has ruined people's lives and jobs.

Jennifer Enoch

Jennifer Roth

Jenny Lokshin

Jessica Black

No utility shutoffs during a pandemic.

Jessica DeVries

I work closely with the immigrant community in Champaign County. This is one of the populations that has been hardest hit by the pandemic. Many are still without work or are only working very few hours a week. This group would benefit from a moratorium on utility shutoffs, especially because language barriers make it hard for these individuals to call companies and explain the difficulties they have faced in order to set up payment plans.

Jessica Hicks

Jill Beckett

Dr. Jillian Athey

Jim and Sandy Hannum

We need to support individuals and families who suffer from the grinding economic effects of the pandemic. With cold weather approaching, cutting off utilities is a particularly harsh and potentially deadly consequence. Please extend a moratorium on utility shut-offs until the pandemic is under control.

Jonathan Breuer

Jordan Kahle

Josephine Thomas

Please do not allow these disconnects.

Dr. Judith Van Cleeff

It's the right thing to do!

Judy Breuer

It's time to help our citizens through this hard time.

Julia Pollack

Julia Rush

Julie McClure

Julie Watkins

Justus Fortado

Those with wealth and power should be obligated to assist those who suffer during this global crisis.

Kaitlyn Joyce

Karla Peterson, UUANI

Kate Kaput

Kate Wegmann

Kate Winkler

Katherine Majewski

Kathryn Oberdeck

Katrina Catizone

Keila Pope, M.A Student

Kelly Halcom

Kenny Crowe, Central Illinois DSA

Kim Ford, Teacher

Help protect the most vulnerable and needy. Stop utility shutoffs during covid.

Kim Whittlesey

Kimberly Wurl

Korinta Maldonado

Please do the humane, right thing.

Kristin Davis

Kristin Walters

Lance Pittman

Ms. Laura

Let's take care of our people in this difficult time. No lockdowns if we don't also keep the power on.

Laura Jacob

Lena Walker, GEO Local 6300

Leslie K. Morrow

Leslie Rye

Lily Wilcock

Linda Collinsworth

Lindsay Rasner

Lisa Chason

Lisa Graff

Lisa Powers

Liz Lemoine

Lois Kain, Food and Water Watch - Midwest

Halt all water and utility shutoffs, restore service, and wave all penalties and fines. Illinois is surging in COVID 19 cases. People need to feel safe in their homes, to find refuge for themselves and their families from the fear and uncertainty of COVID 19, from being out of work, for kids to be home-schooled, for the elderly and vulnerable to be protected from COVID. Shutting off utilities and water is adding to misery and despair, fear, and homelessness, and virus spread. People need kindness and care in this pandemic.

Lucas Brodie Dunn

Lupe Delgado

Lynn Canfield

Marc Alexander

Marcey Goldstein

Marci Adelston-Schafer

Margaret Stanton, Faith United Methodist Church, Wednesday Recovery Group

It's the right thing to do during this pandemic.

Martha Wilkinson

Electricity is essential to basic survival at this time. No one should go without this essential service.

Mary Biddle, Champaign Unit 4 Schools

Mary Fava

Mary Work, CIDsA/Logan County DSA

Mary-Ann Winkelmes

Matthew Currey

Megan Berry, School Social Worker, LCSW

Megan Friend, School Social Worker

Megan Kuhlenschmidt

Please help these families stay safe and warm this winter. It's our moral imperative.

Megan Meyer

Meghan McDonald

Melissa Schoeplein

Melissa Silvester, UIUC Young Democratic Socialists of America

Please stop the preventable deaths. Its an embarrassment that we're letting people die because you won't stop shutoffs. Stop lying, be better than Donald Trump.

Michael Cox

Michael Hannah

Michael Reda

Michele Brown

We need a moratorium for those who need help at this time. Help our communities stay safe.

Michelle Lore

Mindy McClard

Ming Kuo

Power shutoffs are a public health menace at a time when we have more than enough risk to deal with.

Nancy Dietrich

Natalee Barnhart

Natalie Nagel

Nathan Alexander

Nathan Sonnenschein

Nathaniel Forsythe

Cutting off utilities during a pandemic is both immoral and detrimental to public welfare. All citizens need access to basic necessities.

Nicole Kiedysz

Shutting off power as we head into winter and with so many working and schooling from home

does a deep disservice to our community and disproportionately impacts those with single parent homes, people of color, people with disability, etc. There is no need for these actions when we know that there is so much that is out of people's control at this time.

Ms. Niloofar Shambayati

During this pandemic and economic crisis, most people are in desperate need of moratorium on their utility bills and rents to manage their lives and not be afraid of losing access to vital services.

Nina Hopkins

Noah Middaugh, Student

Illinoisans and history will remember your decisions at this critical time. Do not make the mistake of getting on the wrong side of either, we must guarantee the continuation of these vital public utilities.

Nora Miller

No one should have to worry about their power being shutoff during a pandemic, please support our most vulnerable residents during this time by ceasing disconnects.

Oscar Arias, Lakefront DSA

Ms. Parvin Shambayati

Patricia M. Phillips-Batoma

Patrick Bailey

Ms. Penny Hanna

Every abode needs water, electricity and gas for health and safety this Fall and Winter.

Priscilla Kron, Unitarian Universalist Church Urbana Champaign

Rachel Adair

Rachel Lauren Storm

This is absolutely imperative in order to save lives and protect our neighbors.

Rebecca Bott

Rebecca Ginsburg

Rebecca Hinze-Pifer

Rebecca Powell

Renée Trilling

Robin Fellers

Ryan Fellers

Sam Oehlert

Sandra Carr

Dr. Sandra Klitzing

This is the right thing to do.

Sara Johnson

Sara Smith

This is not the time to be cutting off peoples' utilities during a pandemic.

Sara Wilson

Sarah Babbitt, Retired, Elderly Citizen, Unitarian Universalist Church Urbana Champaign

Let's help people in need, not make their lives harder to endure!

Sarah Christensen

Sarah Williams

We should be coming together as a community to do whatever we can to help. When people have only received 1200 this entire pandemic, what do you expect them to do to help house and feed their families?

Sarah Zelenak

Shannon Waller, 1972

Sharlene Denos

Sharon Foley

Sharon Henderson

Sharon Hood

Please show love and compassion. Everyone understands this is a business and to stay in business you need to make a profit but to earn a profit on the well being and possibly life is surely not the intention of this company.

Shawna den Otter

Shawna Martell

Stacie Raup

Stephanie Burnett

Stephanie Daniels

Stephanie Turrentine

Steven Christian, Philosopher

I perform armature stand up at the Clark Bar. We must lock down safely so we can fully re-open. Please take this seriously.

Sue Keller

Tanja R Hodges

Providing protection to our most vulnerable citizens is the job. Please address this immediately. This is literally life and death.

Terri Fredrick

Terrica Miller, Compliance VP

There's no reason why we can't offer people assistance. If this government is for the people, HELP THEM! The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is not their fault.

Theodore Johnson

The government should be doing all it can at this time to help rent-burdened Illinoisans who are struggling to get through this economic downturn. I believe that imposing a utility shutoff moratorium is a feasible and responsible way for the state government to aid lower-income families and prepare for a more prosperous, equitable society as we recover from the pandemic.

Thuthao Phan, Rockwell Automation

Toby Beauchamp

Todd Kinney

Tony Walter

Trevin Gaffney, One People's Campaign

Shutoffs during a pandemic is cruel and unusual!

Valerie O'Brien

Veronica Mullen

Victoria Bauer

Wendy M. Hundley

Willy-Ann Hoff, Single Mom, Public Servant

I'm behind for last month and this month. Had caught the month prior.

Xanthe Brown

Zoe Valentine

Elizabeth Flora-Swick

Yvaine Neyhard

Dr. Mardia Bishop

Gabrielle Ried

Gordon Baym

Abigale Pstrzoch

It is despicable to shutoff utilities during a pandemic. Many people have had their livelihoods destroyed by COVID-19. They should not be met with the stress of living in a home without water and electricity.

Chris Vanjonack, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Abby Alexander

Pat McClard, Unitarian Church of Urbana Champaign

Cutting off heat with winter approaching in the middle of a pandemic is wrong. Are Ameren's profits more important than lives?

Alec Van Patten

Max Beedle

Dat Luu, UIUC YDSA Chair

It's about time public officers of Illinois serve the public instead of corporate and moneyed interest.

Teresa Bray

Lori Newcomb

Citizens' lives over utility profits.

Joyce Wyse

Elizabeth Culbertson

I plead with the county to execute compassion and understanding with those who are struggling during these hard times. A lot are less fortunate than those of us who are sending this to you.

Gerardo Molina

Zachary Sutton

Hidaya Gabr

Magaly Avila

Emily McKown, E.D. Channing Murray Foundation

Melissa Littlefield

Susan Roughton

Lily Hart

Emily Laugesen

Shutting off power during a pandemic is unconscionable. Please step up to be on the side of humanity, compassion, and justice.

Monique Rivera

Zach Carlson, Bloomington-Normal Communist Party

What happens in Champaign County can have a huge effect on McLean County. We support this initiative and Champaign County's efforts to do what is right for Illinois citizens.

Traci Barkley

Michelle Nelson

Michele Grove, Director of Religious Education, Unitarian Universalist Church Urbana Champaign

Matthew Burack, Unitarian Universalist Church Urbana Champaign

Valleri Robinson

Sara Wilson

Kay L. Kirkpatrick, University of Illinois

Access to air, water, and other basic utilities should be free for everyone; at the minimum, people should not be cut off from basic needs during one of the worst disasters in living memory.

Amanda Gray, President of the Board, Immigrant Services of Champaign Urbana

Benjamin DeVries, University of Illinois, member of the Graduate Employee Organization

Umeeta Sadarangani

Jane McClintock

Christopher A. Evans

Sheila Dodd