



VILLAGE OF LYNDONVILLE
ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
General Manager's Office

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April 6, 2021

Dear Senator Kitchel,

I'm writing to let you know that the Public Utility Commission issued an order (attached) to extend the moratorium on utility service disconnections until the end of May. The number of customers falling behind on utility bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic keeps growing. In addition to recognizing the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, the PUC rationalizes that maintaining the moratorium for another short period of time will allow the opportunity to see how federal financial assistance is allocated.

The PUC also notes that additional funding will be critical to helping many Vermonters pay off past due utility bills. To date, federal funding has specifically been targeted to low-income renters, leaving many Vermont home and business owners without assistance. The extension of the moratorium will help such utility customers, but only temporarily.

On behalf of these Vermonters who are also our customers, I am advocating that federal funding be allocated to assist with COVID-19 related utility arrearages. The Village of Lyndonville Electric Department serves 5800 customers 9.6% of which are currently behind on utility bills. Since arrearage assistance funding expired late last year, Lyndonville Electric Department arrearages numbers have increased to \$181,000.00.

I appreciate you keeping this on the consideration list in the Senate and appreciate anything you can do to procure the necessary support needed by so many of our customers and customers across other utilities. Let me know if there is any other information that may be helpful.

Thanks,

Bill Humphrey
General Manager