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Committees:
Environmental Affairs
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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 W. Washington St., Suite #1500e
Indianapolis, IN 46204

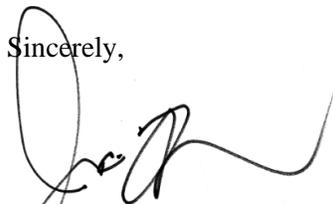
Dear Members of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission:

I write to ask the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to refrain from conducting a hearing at this time on the joint petition (cause no. 45377) filed on May 8, 2020. This petition includes a number of requests by Indiana utilities which would have devastating effects on consumers if granted during the current health pandemic.

Every day, Hoosiers are navigating the challenging health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, and a move by Indiana utilities to hike consumers' rates at this time, as outlined in their joint petition, would be a mistake. Rather, these utility entities should devise plans to guide Hoosier businesses and consumers back to good financial standing to avoid disruptions to service after the suspension on disconnections expires on June 4, 2020, per the Governor's executive order.

The full economic consequences of COVID-19 will not be known in the near future. I encourage the IURC to refrain from conducting a hearing for this petition until more information is available regarding the severity of these consequences and allowing time for the economy to stabilize. In the meantime, I hope Indiana utilities will focus their efforts to create plans to see their customers out of this challenging time.

Sincerely,



John Ruckelshaus
State Senator
Indiana State Senate

CC: Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
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