

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Martin J. Lyons Jr.  
President and CEO  
Ameren Corporation  
1901 Chouteau Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63103

Dear Mr. Lyons:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

These dedicated public servants contribute to our communities daily by inspecting our food and water, discovering cures for diseases, maintaining our parks, processing retirement benefits, caring for our veterans, and so much more. These civil servants have nothing to do with the ongoing political and policy disputes that have brought us to the government shutdown, but they will feel the acute impact of the loss of their paycheck.

A prolonged shutdown could place federal workers temporarily unable to pay their utility bills. Research shows that financially strained households tend to forgo paying for other essential needs, such as food and health care, in order to avoid utility shutoffs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if a federal worker faces a utility shutoff, they are more likely to be exposed to dangerous conditions in their home due to a lack of safe temperature, drinking water, or broadband connectivity.<sup>2</sup>

Suspending utility shutoffs for federal workers during a government shutdown is in line with statutory protections across the country. Over two-thirds of the states have statutes on the books to protect vulnerable populations from utility shutoffs.<sup>3</sup> In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.<sup>4</sup>

However, not all states or localities have such protections and federal workers impacted by the government shutdown live in every corner of our country, including in your service areas. As of

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<sup>1</sup> Sanya Carley, et al., PNAS, *Behavioral and Financial Coping Strategies Among Energy-Insecure Households*, 2022. <https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.2205356119>

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<sup>4</sup> Md. Code, Public Utilities § 7-307.4.

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gpu&section=7-307.4>

July 1, 2025, there are over 2.2 million federal civilian workers,<sup>5</sup> with at least 10,000 in 41 out of 50 states and at least 1,000 in each Congressional district.<sup>6</sup>

Due to the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019, affected federal employees will receive backpay after the shutdown concludes and at that time will be able to address any outstanding debts. Therefore, we urge you to forbear the collection of utility payments, late fees, interest accrual, or other fee collection for federal workers until their pay resumes.

When households are afforded utility disconnection protections, studies show that they are more likely to meet their basic expenses and less likely to rely on social networks and government agencies for assistance with their bills.<sup>7</sup> By undertaking this small but meaningful action during a government shutdown, you can ensure that federal workers are not punished.

Our patriotic, merit-based civil servants work on behalf of the American people every day, delivering essential public services for our country. They should not have to bear the brunt of a political dispute they have nothing to do with. While we will continue to do everything in our power to swiftly reopen the government, we urge you to support our federal workers and their families during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

William J. Fehrman  
Chair, President, and CEO  
American Electric Power Company, Inc.  
1 Riverside Plaza  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Fehrman:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

These dedicated public servants contribute to our communities daily by inspecting our food and water, discovering cures for diseases, maintaining our parks, processing retirement benefits, caring for our veterans, and so much more. These civil servants have nothing to do with the ongoing political and policy disputes that have brought us to the government shutdown, but they will feel the acute impact of the loss of their paycheck.

A prolonged shutdown could place federal workers temporarily unable to pay their utility bills. Research shows that financially strained households tend to forgo paying for other essential needs, such as food and health care, in order to avoid utility shutoffs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if a federal worker faces a utility shutoff, they are more likely to be exposed to dangerous conditions in their home due to a lack of safe temperature, drinking water, or broadband connectivity.<sup>2</sup>

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Sincerely,



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United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Robert J. Sprowls  
President and CEO  
American States Water Company  
630 E. Foothill Blvd.  
San Dimas, CA 91773

Dear Mr. Sprowls:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
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Mazie K. Hirono  
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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

John C. Griffith  
President and CEO  
American Water Works Company  
1 Water Street  
Camden, NJ 08102

Dear Mr. Griffith:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

John Stankey  
CEO  
AT&T  
208 S. Akard St.  
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Mr. Stankley:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Scott W. Thon  
President and CEO  
Berkshire Hathaway Energy  
P.O. Box 657  
Des Moines, IA 50306

Dear Mr. Thon:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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A prolonged shutdown could place federal workers temporarily unable to pay their utility bills. Research shows that financially strained households tend to forgo paying for other essential needs, such as food and health care, in order to avoid utility shutoffs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if a federal worker faces a utility shutoff, they are more likely to be exposed to dangerous conditions in their home due to a lack of safe temperature, drinking water, or broadband connectivity.<sup>2</sup>

Suspending utility shutoffs for federal workers during a government shutdown is in line with statutory protections across the country. Over two-thirds of the states have statutes on the books to protect vulnerable populations from utility shutoffs.<sup>3</sup> In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.<sup>4</sup>

However, not all states or localities have such protections and federal workers impacted by the government shutdown live in every corner of our country, including in your service areas. As of

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July 1, 2025, there are over 2.2 million federal civilian workers,<sup>5</sup> with at least 10,000 in 41 out of 50 states and at least 1,000 in each Congressional district.<sup>6</sup>

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When households are afforded utility disconnection protections, studies show that they are more likely to meet their basic expenses and less likely to rely on social networks and government agencies for assistance with their bills.<sup>7</sup> By undertaking this small but meaningful action during a government shutdown, you can ensure that federal workers are not punished.

Our patriotic, merit-based civil servants work on behalf of the American people every day, delivering essential public services for our country. They should not have to bear the brunt of a political dispute they have nothing to do with. While we will continue to do everything in our power to swiftly reopen the government, we urge you to support our federal workers and their families during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Chris Winfrey  
President and CEO  
Charter Communications  
400 Washington Blvd.  
Stamford, CT 06902

Dear Mr. Winfrey:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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A prolonged shutdown could place federal workers temporarily unable to pay their utility bills. Research shows that financially strained households tend to forgo paying for other essential needs, such as food and health care, in order to avoid utility shutoffs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if a federal worker faces a utility shutoff, they are more likely to be exposed to dangerous conditions in their home due to a lack of safe temperature, drinking water, or broadband connectivity.<sup>2</sup>

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Brian L. Roberts  
CEO  
Comcast  
1701 JFK Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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Suspending utility shutoffs for federal workers during a government shutdown is in line with statutory protections across the country. Over two-thirds of the states have statutes on the books to protect vulnerable populations from utility shutoffs.<sup>3</sup> In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.<sup>4</sup>

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Mark Greatrex  
President  
Cox Communications, Inc.  
6205-B Peachtree Dunwoody Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30328

Dear Mr. Greatrex:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Robert M. Blue  
Chair, President, and CEO  
Dominion Energy  
600 East Canal Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Blue:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Harry K. Sideris  
President and CEO  
Duke Energy  
525 S Tryon St  
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Mr. Sideris:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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Suspending utility shutoffs for federal workers during a government shutdown is in line with statutory protections across the country. Over two-thirds of the states have statutes on the books to protect vulnerable populations from utility shutoffs.<sup>3</sup> In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.<sup>4</sup>

However, not all states or localities have such protections and federal workers impacted by the government shutdown live in every corner of our country, including in your service areas. As of

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July 1, 2025, there are over 2.2 million federal civilian workers,<sup>5</sup> with at least 10,000 in 41 out of 50 states and at least 1,000 in each Congressional district.<sup>6</sup>

Due to the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019, affected federal employees will receive backpay after the shutdown concludes and at that time will be able to address any outstanding debts. Therefore, we urge you to forbear the collection of utility payments, late fees, interest accrual, or other fee collection for federal workers until their pay resumes.

When households are afforded utility disconnection protections, studies show that they are more likely to meet their basic expenses and less likely to rely on social networks and government agencies for assistance with their bills.<sup>7</sup> By undertaking this small but meaningful action during a government shutdown, you can ensure that federal workers are not punished.

Our patriotic, merit-based civil servants work on behalf of the American people every day, delivering essential public services for our country. They should not have to bear the brunt of a political dispute they have nothing to do with. While we will continue to do everything in our power to swiftly reopen the government, we urge you to support our federal workers and their families during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Andrew Marsh  
Chair and CEO  
Entergy Corporation  
639 Loyola Ave  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Dear Mr. Marsh:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

These dedicated public servants contribute to our communities daily by inspecting our food and water, discovering cures for diseases, maintaining our parks, processing retirement benefits, caring for our veterans, and so much more. These civil servants have nothing to do with the ongoing political and policy disputes that have brought us to the government shutdown, but they will feel the acute impact of the loss of their paycheck.

A prolonged shutdown could place federal workers temporarily unable to pay their utility bills. Research shows that financially strained households tend to forgo paying for other essential needs, such as food and health care, in order to avoid utility shutoffs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if a federal worker faces a utility shutoff, they are more likely to be exposed to dangerous conditions in their home due to a lack of safe temperature, drinking water, or broadband connectivity.<sup>2</sup>

Suspending utility shutoffs for federal workers during a government shutdown is in line with statutory protections across the country. Over two-thirds of the states have statutes on the books to protect vulnerable populations from utility shutoffs.<sup>3</sup> In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.<sup>4</sup>

However, not all states or localities have such protections and federal workers impacted by the government shutdown live in every corner of our country, including in your service areas. As of

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<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gpu&section=7-307.4>

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Our patriotic, merit-based civil servants work on behalf of the American people every day, delivering essential public services for our country. They should not have to bear the brunt of a political dispute they have nothing to do with. While we will continue to do everything in our power to swiftly reopen the government, we urge you to support our federal workers and their families during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Christopher Franklin  
CEO  
Essential Utilities, Inc.  
762 W. Lancaster Ave.  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Dear Mr. Franklin:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

These dedicated public servants contribute to our communities daily by inspecting our food and water, discovering cures for diseases, maintaining our parks, processing retirement benefits, caring for our veterans, and so much more. These civil servants have nothing to do with the ongoing political and policy disputes that have brought us to the government shutdown, but they will feel the acute impact of the loss of their paycheck.

A prolonged shutdown could place federal workers temporarily unable to pay their utility bills. Research shows that financially strained households tend to forgo paying for other essential needs, such as food and health care, in order to avoid utility shutoffs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if a federal worker faces a utility shutoff, they are more likely to be exposed to dangerous conditions in their home due to a lack of safe temperature, drinking water, or broadband connectivity.<sup>2</sup>

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Our patriotic, merit-based civil servants work on behalf of the American people every day, delivering essential public services for our country. They should not have to bear the brunt of a political dispute they have nothing to do with. While we will continue to do everything in our power to swiftly reopen the government, we urge you to support our federal workers and their families during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Calvin Butler  
President and CEO  
Exelon Corporation  
10 S Dearborn St.  
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear Mr. Butler:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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However, not all states or localities have such protections and federal workers impacted by the government shutdown live in every corner of our country, including in your service areas. As of

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Brian X. Tierney  
Chair, President, and CEO  
FirstEnergy Corporation  
341 White Pond Drive  
Akron, Ohio 44320

Dear Mr. Tierney:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Kate Johnson  
CEO  
Lumen Technologies  
100 CenturyLink Drive  
Monroe, LA 71203

Dear Ms. Johnson:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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Due to the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019, affected federal employees will receive backpay after the shutdown concludes and at that time will be able to address any outstanding debts. Therefore, we urge you to forbear the collection of utility payments, late fees, interest accrual, or other fee collection for federal workers until their pay resumes.

When households are afforded utility disconnection protections, studies show that they are more likely to meet their basic expenses and less likely to rely on social networks and government agencies for assistance with their bills.<sup>7</sup> By undertaking this small but meaningful action during a government shutdown, you can ensure that federal workers are not punished.

Our patriotic, merit-based civil servants work on behalf of the American people every day, delivering essential public services for our country. They should not have to bear the brunt of a political dispute they have nothing to do with. While we will continue to do everything in our power to swiftly reopen the government, we urge you to support our federal workers and their families during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Vincent Sorgi  
President and CEO  
PPL Corporation  
645 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18101

Dear Mr. Sorgi:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

These dedicated public servants contribute to our communities daily by inspecting our food and water, discovering cures for diseases, maintaining our parks, processing retirement benefits, caring for our veterans, and so much more. These civil servants have nothing to do with the ongoing political and policy disputes that have brought us to the government shutdown, but they will feel the acute impact of the loss of their paycheck.

A prolonged shutdown could place federal workers temporarily unable to pay their utility bills. Research shows that financially strained households tend to forgo paying for other essential needs, such as food and health care, in order to avoid utility shutoffs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if a federal worker faces a utility shutoff, they are more likely to be exposed to dangerous conditions in their home due to a lack of safe temperature, drinking water, or broadband connectivity.<sup>2</sup>

Suspending utility shutoffs for federal workers during a government shutdown is in line with statutory protections across the country. Over two-thirds of the states have statutes on the books to protect vulnerable populations from utility shutoffs.<sup>3</sup> In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.<sup>4</sup>

However, not all states or localities have such protections and federal workers impacted by the government shutdown live in every corner of our country, including in your service areas. As of

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<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gpu&section=7-307.4>

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Kim C. Hanemann  
President and COO  
Public Service Enterprise Group Inc.  
80 Park Plaza  
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Ms. Hanemann:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

These dedicated public servants contribute to our communities daily by inspecting our food and water, discovering cures for diseases, maintaining our parks, processing retirement benefits, caring for our veterans, and so much more. These civil servants have nothing to do with the ongoing political and policy disputes that have brought us to the government shutdown, but they will feel the acute impact of the loss of their paycheck.

A prolonged shutdown could place federal workers temporarily unable to pay their utility bills. Research shows that financially strained households tend to forgo paying for other essential needs, such as food and health care, in order to avoid utility shutoffs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if a federal worker faces a utility shutoff, they are more likely to be exposed to dangerous conditions in their home due to a lack of safe temperature, drinking water, or broadband connectivity.<sup>2</sup>

Suspending utility shutoffs for federal workers during a government shutdown is in line with statutory protections across the country. Over two-thirds of the states have statutes on the books to protect vulnerable populations from utility shutoffs.<sup>3</sup> In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.<sup>4</sup>

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Chris Womack  
Chair, President, and CEO  
Southern Company  
30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Dear Mr. Womack:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

These dedicated public servants contribute to our communities daily by inspecting our food and water, discovering cures for diseases, maintaining our parks, processing retirement benefits, caring for our veterans, and so much more. These civil servants have nothing to do with the ongoing political and policy disputes that have brought us to the government shutdown, but they will feel the acute impact of the loss of their paycheck.

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Mike Sievert  
CEO  
T-Mobile  
12920 SE 38th Street  
Bellevue, Washington 98006

Dear Mr. Sievert:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

These dedicated public servants contribute to our communities daily by inspecting our food and water, discovering cures for diseases, maintaining our parks, processing retirement benefits, caring for our veterans, and so much more. These civil servants have nothing to do with the ongoing political and policy disputes that have brought us to the government shutdown, but they will feel the acute impact of the loss of their paycheck.

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Hans Vestberg  
CEO  
Verizon  
1095 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Vestberg:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

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<sup>3</sup> Trevor Memmott et al., iScience, *Utility Disconnection Protections and the Incidence of Energy Insecurity in the United States*, 2023. [https://www.cell.com/iscience/fulltext/S2589-0042\(23\)00321-8?\\_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2589004223003218%3Fshowa%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/iscience/fulltext/S2589-0042(23)00321-8?_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2589004223003218%3Fshowa%3Dtrue)

<sup>4</sup> Md. Code, Public Utilities § 7-307.4.  
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gpu&section=7-307.4>

July 1, 2025, there are over 2.2 million federal civilian workers,<sup>5</sup> with at least 10,000 in 41 out of 50 states and at least 1,000 in each Congressional district.<sup>6</sup>

Due to the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019, affected federal employees will receive backpay after the shutdown concludes and at that time will be able to address any outstanding debts. Therefore, we urge you to forbear the collection of utility payments, late fees, interest accrual, or other fee collection for federal workers until their pay resumes.

When households are afforded utility disconnection protections, studies show that they are more likely to meet their basic expenses and less likely to rely on social networks and government agencies for assistance with their bills.<sup>7</sup> By undertaking this small but meaningful action during a government shutdown, you can ensure that federal workers are not punished.

Our patriotic, merit-based civil servants work on behalf of the American people every day, delivering essential public services for our country. They should not have to bear the brunt of a political dispute they have nothing to do with. While we will continue to do everything in our power to swiftly reopen the government, we urge you to support our federal workers and their families during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Office of Personnel Management, FedScope data. <https://www.opm.gov/news/new-data-shows-trump-administration%CA%BCs-progress-in-right-sizing-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<sup>6</sup> CRS, *Current Federal Civilian Employment by State and Congressional District*, 2025. <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R47716>

<sup>7</sup> Trevor Memmott et al., iScience, *Utility Disconnection Protections and the Incidence of Energy Insecurity in the United States*, 2023. [https://www.cell.com/iscience/fulltext/S2589-0042\(23\)00321-8?\\_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2589004223003218%3Fshowall%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/iscience/fulltext/S2589-0042(23)00321-8?_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2589004223003218%3Fshowall%3Dtrue)



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United States Senator



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United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2025

Robert Frenzel  
Chair, President and CEO  
Xcel Energy Inc.  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Frenzel:

We write to urge you to suspend all utility shutoffs imposed on federal workers who are involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the ongoing government shutdown. Without their paycheck, federal workers are at risk of having their electricity, water, and broadband services terminated due to temporary inability to pay. The families you serve must have uninterrupted access to these essential public utilities.

These dedicated public servants contribute to our communities daily by inspecting our food and water, discovering cures for diseases, maintaining our parks, processing retirement benefits, caring for our veterans, and so much more. These civil servants have nothing to do with the ongoing political and policy disputes that have brought us to the government shutdown, but they will feel the acute impact of the loss of their paycheck.

A prolonged shutdown could place federal workers temporarily unable to pay their utility bills. Research shows that financially strained households tend to forgo paying for other essential needs, such as food and health care, in order to avoid utility shutoffs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if a federal worker faces a utility shutoff, they are more likely to be exposed to dangerous conditions in their home due to a lack of safe temperature, drinking water, or broadband connectivity.<sup>2</sup>

Suspending utility shutoffs for federal workers during a government shutdown is in line with statutory protections across the country. Over two-thirds of the states have statutes on the books to protect vulnerable populations from utility shutoffs.<sup>3</sup> In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.<sup>4</sup>

However, not all states or localities have such protections and federal workers impacted by the government shutdown live in every corner of our country, including in your service areas. As of

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