



STATE OF ILLINOIS

November 30, 2020

Governor JB Pritzker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker,

We, the undersigned members of the Illinois Senate, are writing on behalf of our constituents to ask you to establish a new moratorium against utility shut-offs this winter. We are in the midst of an unprecedented health and economic crisis – with small business owners and employees especially hard hit by layoffs and loss of income. During this pandemic and its associated economic downturn, no one should have to face the threat of a winter without heat or lights. That only increases the risk of illness, injury, and fires.

We appreciate that you took action on this issue last spring, and that the Illinois Commerce Commission has already negotiated a voluntary moratorium with some utility companies. However, in this case, we feel that voluntary agreements with many – though not all – companies is not enough. Illinois residents need real assurances that they will continue to have heat, even if the pandemic causes them financial hardship.

We also need to ensure that winter warming centers are reserved for the homeless and people who are experiencing temporary, non-financial loss of heat. Otherwise, we run the risk that these vital resources will present an even greater risk of spreading COVID-19.

As is so often and so unfortunately the case, this crisis is taking the largest toll on people who were already struggling before the pandemic even began. Low-income families, particularly in communities of color, are the most likely to remain out of work, and lack the resources they need to pay their utility bills.

Please, help struggling families make it safely through the winter. Institute a new moratorium on utility shutoffs, stronger than the state's normal winter rules.

Your leadership has helped Illinois get through this crisis. Please, help protect our constituents further.



STATE OF ILLINOIS

Sincerely,

Ram Villivalam

Ram Villivalam
State Senator, 8th District

Laura Fine

Laura Fine
State Senator, 9th District

Celina Villanueva

Celina Villanueva
State Senator, 11th District

RP

Robert Peters
State Senator, 13th District

Ann Gillespie

Ann Gillespie
State Senator, 27th District

Julie A. Morrison

Julie A. Morrison
State Senator, 29th District

Adriane Johnson

Adriane Johnson
State Senator, 30th District