

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.¹ 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.²

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.³ In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.⁴

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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⁴ Md. Code, Public Utilities § 7-307.4.

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

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

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.⁷ 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



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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.

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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.¹ 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.²

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.³ In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.⁴

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



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United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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



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Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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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Chris Van Hollen
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United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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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John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

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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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.⁷ 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

⁵ 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/>

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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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.

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.¹ 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.²

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.³ In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.⁴

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



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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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Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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
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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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



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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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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Bernard Sanders
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United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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.¹ 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.²

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.³ In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.⁴

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,⁵ with at least 10,000 in 41 out of 50 states and at least 1,000 in each Congressional district.⁶

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.⁷ 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



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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.

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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.¹ 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.²

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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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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.⁷ 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



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United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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.

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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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.³ In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.⁴

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

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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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Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



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United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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.

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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.⁷ 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

⁵ 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/>

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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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.¹ 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.²

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.³ In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.⁴

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
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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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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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.³ In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.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



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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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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.³ In Maryland specifically, state law prohibits public utilities from shutting off service to involuntarily furloughed federal workers.⁴

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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
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Tim Kaine
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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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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Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



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.

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Chris Van Hollen
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