



**Filed VIA E-PUC**

December 17, 2020

VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
People's United Bank Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Case No. 20-0703-PET - Vermont Legal Aid request for moratorium on utility and telecommunications shutoffs during State of Emergency

Dear Commission:

On December 14, 2020, the Public Utility Commission ("Commission") issued *its Order Requesting Comments Regarding the Proposed Reinstatement of a Temporary Disconnection Moratorium* seeking comments on whether to reinstate the temporary moratorium on utility disconnections in light of motions filed by Vermont Legal Aid and the Department of Public Service requesting that the moratorium be reinstated. We believe that a reinstatement aligned with the current state of emergency in Vermont is appropriate and would provide an additional level of relief to customers during this pandemic. VGS supports a Commission order to that effect.

As VGS has stated in previous comments filed in this docket, we do not plan to pursue any disconnections during this winter season, and we have worked to put customers with significant arrearages on 12-month repayment plans since this fall to avoid creating potentially unmanageable past-due balances. That said, VGS believes that reinstatement of the temporary disconnection moratorium is appropriate at this time, given the rise in Covid-19 cases in Vermont, the Governor's extension of the state of emergency, and the continued financial strain that many Vermonters still face.

We continue to appreciate the Commission's attention on this critical matter. We do not request a hearing or any other process.

Sincerely,

Matthew Allen  
Customer Care Manager