



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

October 1, 2020

Ralph S. Northam  
Governor

The Honorable Mark C. Christie  
The Honorable Judith Williams Jagdmann  
The Honorable Jehmal T. Hudson  
State Corporation Commission  
P. O. Box 1197  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Chairman Christie and Commissioners:

I write to request another extension of the suspension of utility service disconnections through December 1, 2020 or a General Assembly reconvened session, whichever is sooner. On September 14, 2020 I made a similar request and very much appreciate the Commission's earlier extension of this order. The current moratorium on disconnections is in place pursuant to the State Corporation Commission's Case No. PUR-2020-00048 and is set to expire October 5, 2020. As I mentioned, this order has had a positive effect in protecting public health throughout the Commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic and we thank you for your leadership. The Virginia General Assembly is still in special session, so this request is intended to give the legislature the time they need to finish their work and address this issue.

On August 18, 2020 I submitted my budget to the General Assembly. We proposed language for a utility disconnection moratorium, repayment plan structure, and debt forgiveness program. With proposals for utilities and customers included in both the House and Senate's recently introduced budget proposals, we are optimistic that the General Assembly will address this issue. The intent of this request is to ensure that there are no disconnections between the expiration of the current order and when the budget becomes law.

Our goal is to protect public health and support families facing unprecedented hardship during this pandemic, and my administration will continue to work with legislative leadership, providers, and advocates on this issue. Extending the moratorium will ensure that families can keep essential services on while the legislature finalizes next steps.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me, or my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph S. Northam".

Ralph S. Northam