

JUST NEW ORLEANS IS NOT ENOUGH; GROUPS CALL FOR A STATEWIDE SHUT-OFF MORATORIUM

Louisiana Public Service Commission urged to follow suit of the New Orleans City Council and demand a 90-day moratorium for all electric utilities.

New Orleans – August 5, 2022 - The Energy Efficiency for All Louisiana Coalition is calling on the Louisiana Public Service Commission to require all electric utilities to enact a **statewide** shut-off moratorium. While the EEFA-LA Coalition is pleased by yesterday's vote of the New Orleans City Council making the 90-day moratorium legally binding in New Orleans for Entergy New Orleans Customers, supporters say it's not enough. The LPSC, which regulates utilities in the rest of the state, needs to require the same thing for ratepayers statewide.

2001 legislation called the "Energy Emergency Relief Act gives the Commission authority to declare an Energy Emergency when customers experience inordinately high utility bills and allows customers to defer payments for 12 months. The Commission should declare an Energy Emergency in addition to the 90-day moratorium to ensure customers have a path to deal with these extraordinary electricity bills.

"With mid-term elections approaching, voters should keep in mind which Commissioners helped struggling residents and who decided to go against a shut-off moratorium, **says Andreanecia Morris, President of GNOHA**. "The people have the power to put someone in office who actually listens to the needs of their constituents and does something to address them."

"I believe the ability to accept campaign contributions from the very entities they have regulatory authority over, is a high conflict of interest, **says Jessica Cunningham, State Policy Director for the Alliance for Affordable Energy**. "I also believe that shut-offs are a grave matter of public health in light of covid, monkeypox, and extreme heat-related illnesses. Lives are literally at stake, with the most vulnerable populations being the poor, the elderly, and the minorities."

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About Energy Efficiency for All Louisiana:

Energy Efficiency for All Louisiana is a coalition of affordable housing, health, energy, environmental, and community leaders working to change in policies and practices to ensure that all Louisianians live in homes that are affordable and healthy. We work to unite people from diverse sectors and backgrounds to collectively make multifamily affordable homes energy efficient. We do this work so people in under-invested communities – particularly black, Latinx, and other communities of color – who have been marginalized can equitably benefit from the health, economic, and environmental advantages of energy and water efficiency. EEFA-LA is a collaborative partnership between the Alliance for Affordable Energy, Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance, and other groups.

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