



**ALLIANCE FOR
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY**

November 26, 2025

(Via Electronic Mail Only)

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Dear members of the New Orleans City Council,

Louisianans are on the precipice of an urgent crisis. Amidst rising energy costs and other costs of living, thousands of Louisiana residents – many of them children and elders – will soon be facing utility disconnection as we head into the holiday months. I am writing to request that the Council issue an Emergency Order directing electric, gas and water utilities to halt disconnections (and reconnect those already disconnected based on lack of payment) through the winter.

The federal government shutdown delayed the release of critical energy aid, and the cost of natural gas has risen nearly 68% in the last three months, which will further burden some of the nation's poorest families who rely on electricity and gas to heat their homes as colder weather approaches. As people struggle to make ends meet, the last thing people need to be

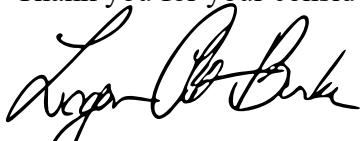
worried about is whether or not they can keep their lights on, heat their home, or maintain their medicine and medical devices. This Order will offer protection, potentially life-saving, for Louisiana residents going into the winter months.

Many states already have seasonal disconnection moratoria^{1, 2, 3, 4} and a call is growing nationally for legislatures and regulatory commissions to end utility disconnections⁵. Louisiana should be on the forefront of this growing movement. Our state suffers from the highest poverty rate in the nation⁶, and a report this year by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office found that Louisianans pay higher-than-average utility bills for one of the country's least reliable grids.⁷ These are unprecedented times and vulnerable populations will feel the sting of the affordability crisis more than most.

Under these conditions, access to utility services is more vital than ever, and can be a literal life-or-death matter for the most vulnerable Louisianans. **We urge you to take bold action to meet the needs of this moment by ending residential utility disconnections due to inability to pay rising bills through March 2026.**

Your actions can save lives. Existing policies that prohibit residential disconnections under certain limited conditions are not adequate to the crisis at hand. Too many people are falling through the cracks. We urge you to act now to do what is necessary to protect New Orleans residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



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Executive Director
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CC: Erin Spears

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2025-2026-winter-moratorium-letter>

² <https://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/083/083002800I01350R.html>

³ <https://www.in.gov/oucc/about-your-rates/winter-disconnection-moratorium-frequently-asked-questions/>

⁴ <https://ncdoj.gov/protecting-consumers/energy-and-utilities/termination-of-utility-service/>

⁵ <https://neada.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/PRshutdownshutoffs.pdf>

⁶ <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2024/demo/acsbr-022.pdf>

⁷ [https://app2.la.state.la.us/publicreports.nsf/0/e298385114b2b00a86258c12006a88b6/\\$file/000069cba.pdf?openelement&.7773098](https://app2.la.state.la.us/publicreports.nsf/0/e298385114b2b00a86258c12006a88b6/$file/000069cba.pdf?openelement&.7773098)