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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULAR OPEN MEETING
Thursday, March 18, 2021
Chicago, Illinois

Met pursuant to notice via videoconference
at 11:30 a.m. at 160 North LaSalle Street, Chicago,
Illinois.

PRESENT:

- CARRIE ZALEWSKI, Chairwoman
(via Chicago Office)
- D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Commissioner
(via Chicago Office)
- SADZI M. OLIVA, Commissioner
(via videoconference)
- MARIA S. BOCANEGRRA, Commissioner
(via videoconference)
- MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, Commissioner
(via Springfield Office)

BRIDGES COURT REPORTING
BY: Michael J. Duffy, CER
Notary Public

1 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Under the Open Meetings
2 Act, and in accordance with the Governor's
3 executive orders, I call the March 18th, 2021
4 Regular Open Meeting to order.

5 Before we proceed, and for clarity of the
6 record, I would ask everyone to state their name
7 before speaking and to speak slowly and clearly so
8 that the Court Reporter can capture everything that
9 is said. I checked that we have all commissioners
10 with us, so we have a quorum.

11 We have 16 requests to speak and going in the
12 order received. First: Eddie Pratt, Jr. Second:
13 Emiliano Vera. Third: Diana Burdette. Fourth:
14 Anthony Walraven. Fifth: Beau David Barber.
15 Sixth: Sarah Blanco. Seventh: Dat Hoang Luu.
16 Eighth: Marc Girdler. Ninth: Allan Max Axelrod.
17 Tenth: Kyle Auer. 11th: Kenneth Crowe. 12th: Lena
18 Walker. 13th: Drake Materre. 14th: Rita Conery.
19 15: Benjamin George, and 16th: Jessica Motsinger

20 Under 2 Ill. Adm. Code Section 1700.10, any
21 person desiring to address the Commission shall be
22 allowed up to three minutes. Only one person will

1 speak on behalf of any organization. Note that the
2 Commission will not respond directly to any
3 comments.

4 Due to the large number of requests to speak,
5 each person will be granted two minutes to speak
6 today. I would note that any person wishing to
7 provide further comments may submit a written
8 comment to the Commission. The written comments
9 may be submitted by going to the ICC website,
10 icc.illinois.gov, go to the e-Docket system, look
11 for docket number, in this case, 20-0308. [sic]
12 And then in the docket there's a "file a comment"
13 link.

14 You can also, alternatively, call our
15 Consumer Services Division and I'm going to read
16 the number: (800) 524-0795. And if you call them,
17 they can help you with the stuff of how to enter a
18 comment in this docket.

19 First, we have Eddie Pratt, Jr. Mr.
20 Pratt, are you on?

21 MR. PRATT: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you.

1 You'll have two minutes. My policy advisor, Tanya,
2 will be starting the clock. Before you begin. If
3 you could please state and spell your name for the
4 Court Reporter and then we'll start the clock.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. PRATT: Yes. Eddie Pratt, Jr. That's
7 spelled E-D-D-I-E, Pratt, P-R-A-T-T, Junior. I am
8 a resident of Champaign. I'm here representing the
9 CU Human Rights Coalition. And I just want to say
10 that I'm thankful that you guys are allowing me to
11 speak today.

12 So the situation is a little bleak, even
13 though that we are starting this rollout, there's a
14 great bit of people who are still under the poverty
15 line, and we've seen those numbers increase. Along
16 with that, and very much so connected to that,
17 we've seen levels of violent crime increase, we've
18 seen suicides increase, and with the moratorium
19 possibly ending very, very soon, there are a lot of
20 people who haven't gotten back to normality as far
21 as their financial situations, even in lieu of this
22 last stimulus payment that just came through for a

1 lot of people.

2 What I would like to see is this moratorium
3 extended, maybe even possibly going into May or
4 even June because people aren't ready yet. If this
5 ends now, the trend that we've seen is only going
6 to, you know, be even worse. Basically, I mean,
7 the stats show themselves. You know, we've all
8 lived through 2020 and we know what that was like.
9 And if we hang our people to dry now, things only
10 stand to get worse. And I hope that that is
11 something that you all consider. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next,
13 Emiliano Vera? Emiliano, are you on?

14 MR. VERA: Yes, I am.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Great. You have two
16 minutes. And again, we'll set the timer. If you
17 could first state and then spell your name for the
18 Court Reporter, then we'll begin the timer.

19 MR. VERA: Emiliano Vera, E-M-I-L-I-A-N-O,
20 V-E-R-A. All right. Well, I am definitely, I'm
21 grateful for the moratorium that was established
22 previously. I think that it always should have

1 been mandatory, but I am concerned that the
2 moratorium is not being followed even as it is in
3 place now. There is evidence to show that Ameren
4 has been shutting off at least one person a month
5 for months now. And that it was followed by ComEd
6 in February with the resumption of shutoffs for
7 non-payable in violation of the moratorium. And I
8 think that it is necessary to reinstate a mandatory
9 shutoff moratorium that is covering the entire
10 state, all utilities within the state. Thank you.
11 I yield the rest of my time.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Third,
13 Diana Burdette. Are you on?

14 MS. BURDETTE: Yes, I am.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Great.

16 MS. BURDETTE: My name is Diana Burdette,
17 D-I-A-N-A, B-U-R-D-E-T-T-E. I'm representing
18 Lakefront Democratic Socialists of America out of
19 Lake County. The community I specifically live in
20 is comprised of the working poor of our county. We
21 are the housekeepers, the gardeners, the grocery,
22 gas attendants, dry clean, shopkeepers of the

1 ultra-affluent in our community. Warehouse workers
2 with little to no regulation, packaging safety
3 materials for hospital industries.

4 In essence, we are the essential workers that
5 were in harm's way when the pandemic struck. We
6 were the ones that were not able to shelter in
7 place and we're the hardest hit with deaths and
8 disease. On October 29th, Governor Pritzker
9 tweeted that by October 1st, cases increased by 151
10 percent. Increases in 73 percent hospitalization,
11 61 percent ICU patients, 53 percent patients on
12 ventilators, and 82 percent in COVID deaths. Those
13 statistics were gathered from communities like
14 mine, essential worker communities.

15 And at the same time as COVID destroyed our
16 communities, so did power shutoffs. With over
17 2,000 cases a day, two weeks after shutoff started,
18 over 3,000 cases a day, three weeks after cases
19 started, and over 4,000 cases a day a month after
20 cases started. It's been clear that though
21 essential communities that provided bodies to
22 maintain the working cog of daily life were exalted

1 in name and on paper. In real life, our people are
2 expendable.

3 As our communities hit the peak of winter,
4 our power was shut off and our people are the first
5 and last to suffer. Well, platitudes are not
6 enough, and now we are asking for more. We are
7 asking for action. It is not -- the cold is not
8 over. Our children are still at home trying to
9 learn and we are still essential. We need to
10 extend the moratorium. Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Fourth,
12 Mr. Anthony Walraven? Mr. Walraven, Are you on?
13 Mr. Walraven, I'm doing a quick look, and I don't
14 see you connected to our Webex. Last check.

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. Fifth, Mr. Beau
17 David Barber. Mr. Barber, are you on?

18 MR. BARBER: Yes, ma'am.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. Great. We'll
20 set the timer for two minutes. Please state and
21 spell your name and then you may begin.

22 MR. BARBER: I have one question. Would it

1 be possible for me to share my screen? I have a
2 table that I want to show if that's okay. If not,
3 that's fine.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: It's fine except, you
5 know, what only will be recorded is what is said.
6 If you want to submit the table, you can submit
7 via, like what I said at the beginning. You can
8 submit by either going to the website or by calling
9 the number.

10 MR. BARBER: Okay. Sure. That still works.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay.

12 MR. BARBER: I do have one correction,
13 though, to what you said earlier and I know this
14 was like an error that -- docket 20 dash -- so
15 20-0309, not -- 0308, if I'm correct. I don't know
16 if that was just some error that was occurring.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: I'm sorry. What? Say
18 it again? I just want to confirm.

19 MR. BARBER: You said earlier for submitting
20 the written, people can submit it for the Docket
21 20-0308. But it's actually 20-0309. I remember
22 getting an e-mail about it when I first got the

1 confirmation to speak, it listed 20-0308, but then
2 they sent an e-mail saying it was 20-0309.

3 Apologies for that.

4 JUDGE TEAGUE-KINGSLEY: Excuse me. This is
5 Judge Teague-Kingsley. Chairman, he's correct.
6 The docket number should be 20-0309.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.
8 Thank you for the correction.

9 MR. BARBER: No, worries. I just wanted to
10 make sure that was clear.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you.

12 MR. BARBER: So, may I proceed?

13 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Yeah. Let's -- Tanya
14 are you going to put the timer up?

15 THE COURT REPORTER: We can only share once.
16 I cannot share a screen and have another person
17 share a screen.

18 MR. BARBER: That's fine. I'm not going to
19 share my screen. Apologies for that confusion.
20 I'll submit the rest of my -- well, I can submit
21 the rest of my stuff as written comments if that's
22 allowed. Thank you.

1 So my name is Beau David Barber.
2 That is B-E-A-U, D-A-V-I-D, and then B-A-R-B-E-R.
3 I am a precinct committee person for Champaign
4 County Democratic Party representing Ogden 1
5 Precinct.

6 So I've looked at this docket very closely
7 and I've been tracking all of the data that comes
8 out of it, and I built a table that I can submit as
9 written comments as well, that details shut off by
10 ZIP code, town, county, and Illinois Department of
11 Public Health Region. And one thing that I, you
12 know, been noticed so is, you know, through these,
13 is looking at not the disparities based on
14 location, but also disparities based on racial
15 demographics.

16 So for instance, and I confirmed this, along
17 with the report that chicagobusiness.com had put
18 out, about 1 in 25 ComEd customers in certain ZIP
19 codes, primarily black communities, having their
20 utilities disconnected. So for the ZIP code 60621,
21 which comprises mostly the Englewood -- comprises
22 mostly of the Englewood community. At that time,

1 from September to October, they had 699 shutoffs,
2 which represented about 5.5 percent of the
3 customers of ComEd in there, in that community.

4 As of November, that is now -- that is now
5 740 total. So that's 5.81 percent. There's many
6 other communities like that, that they list in
7 there, but for the, you know, for the brevity that
8 I've been given, I will note that this and many
9 other communities listed in there comprise of over
10 60 or over 70 percent non-white residents. And of
11 the ZIP codes 60621, 60827, 60409, they all have
12 over three percent of their customers, from
13 September through November, disconnected by ComEd.
14 And these communities are over 70 percent non-white
15 according to the American Community Survey.

16 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Sorry, you are out of
17 time.

18 MR. BARBER: I apologize. Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. And again,
20 feel free to submit your -- any other comments, or
21 the table. Thank you.

22 MR. BARBER: Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: All right. Six is
2 Ms. Sarah Blanco? Ms. Blanco are you on?

3 MS. BLANCO: Yes.

4 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Great. Please state
5 and spell your name and then we will start the
6 timer.

7 MS. BLANCO: My name is Sarah Blanco, That's
8 S-A-R-A-H, B-L-A-N-C-O. And I am representing the
9 Champaign-Urbana Branch of the Party for Socialism
10 and Liberation.

11 Wash your hands. In the early months of the
12 COVID-19 pandemic, this phrase was everywhere, from
13 profile pictures to marquees of closed businesses,
14 and of course, in every list of actions necessary
15 to stop the spread of COVID-19. So washing hands
16 was to prevent the spread of COVID-19. And for so
17 much more.

18 Water is essential for life. It is a basic
19 human right. However, water corporations such as
20 Illinois American Water, use this natural resource
21 and basic necessity as a source of profit and have
22 the power to cut off access to it for those who are

1 unable to pay, putting all of us in danger.

2 Between October 2020 and February 2021,
3 Illinois American Water cruelly and recklessly
4 withheld running water from almost 12,000
5 households. Meanwhile, American Water has been
6 profiting more and more. Since the beginning of
7 the pandemic, American Water's profits have only
8 increased.

9 From quarter two of 2020, American Water's
10 profits, per share, increased 3.2 percent compared
11 to quarter two of 2019. From quarter three of 2019
12 to quarter three of 2020, the increase was 9.8
13 percent per share. And in quarter four of 2020, as
14 American Water denied water to thousands, its
15 profits increased by 48 percent per share compared
16 to quarter two -- four of 2019.

17 To allow American Water to resume water shut
18 offs at the end of this month would be to
19 recklessly invite a public health disaster.
20 Because American Water cannot be trusted to put the
21 needs of people over the pursuit of profits, a
22 mandatory moratorium on utility shut off is

1 necessary. Lives depend on it. All power to the
2 people.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next,
4 Mr. Dat Hoang Luu. Mr. Luu, are you on?

5 MR. LUU: Yes, I am. My name is Dat Luu,
6 D-A-T, L-U-U. I'm a student here at the University
7 of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and I'm representing
8 the UIUC, Young Democratic Socialists of America
9 here today.

10 I want to bring to the attention of the
11 Commission a report published by the National
12 Bureau of Economic Research conducted by
13 researchers at Duke University. According to the
14 information gathered in the report published in
15 January of 2021, if, on the federal level,
16 evictions and utility moratorium were put in place
17 within the time frame of March 2020 to November
18 2020, COVID infection rates would've dropped 14.2
19 percent and 8.7 percent respectively.

20 As for the COVID deaths, however, they
21 would've dropped 40.7 percent and 14.8 percent,
22 respectively. When spoken in the context of human

1 costs, and the tens of thousands, hundreds of
2 thousands of lives lost across the country and here
3 Illinois, that could have been prevented.

4 Now, I mentioned the whopping statistics on
5 evictions for a reason. Despite there being an
6 eviction moratorium in place right now and that is
7 because to activists saying this before this report
8 came out and within the report itself, it is
9 understood that utility shutoffs and the threats of
10 evictions are concurrent hardship experienced by
11 the working class and working poor. Utility
12 shutoffs are often the precursor to evictions. The
13 financial stress of one leading to another.
14 Compounding together increases the odds of
15 infections and deaths beyond the respective
16 findings from Duke University.

17 As the moratorium on both evictions and
18 utility shutoffs end soon here in Illinois, this
19 deepening of this crisis has come sooner than folks
20 may think. The conclusions filed in this report as
21 for what is to be done are not new to the
22 Commission or activists advocating for utility

1 shutoff moratoriums for some time now. This report
2 came out in January with a price of thousands of
3 pandemic casualties and hope lost before it is
4 allowed for the information to be compiled in the
5 first place.

6 There's no dispute now, the astoundingly
7 clear conclusion: If you prevent utility shutoffs,
8 you will save lives. Illinois must take action for
9 its residents and prevent utility shutoffs. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Eighth,
12 Mr. Marc Girdler -- Mr. Girdler, are you on?

13 MR. GIRDLER: Yeah, I'm here.

14 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Great. Please state
15 and spell your name and then we'll start the timer.

16 MR. GIRDLER: Thank you. My name is Marc
17 Girdler, M-A-R-C, G-I-R-D-L-E-R. I'm here as a
18 member of the Bloomington-Normal Club of the
19 Communist Party. And obviously, I'm here to ask
20 you to do the right thing for the people of
21 Illinois and continue this shutoff moratorium.

22 Even though there's help available, it's

1 difficult to get under the best of circumstances,
2 let alone during a once-in-a-lifetime global
3 pandemic like this. I live in Decatur, and even
4 though I receive LIHEAP assistance, I still have
5 gotten multiple shutoff notifications from the city
6 telling me that my water is going to be shut off.
7 I'm someone who's used to dealing with the system,
8 and even I find the way that some of these
9 means-based -- means-testing-based help are given
10 out. Knowing what you qualify for, and how to get
11 it, just having a moratorium, even, you have to
12 dance through many hoops to get it.

13 We're still in the middle of this pandemic
14 and getting that help is more important than ever,
15 yet it's quantifiable that people are not able to
16 get that help. Over 70 thousand less people are
17 using LIHEAP this year than they were last year.
18 That's, in my opinion, because it's difficult to
19 navigate these different hoops. A way to -- a
20 better way around this is just to uphold this
21 moratorium and keep people's power on because we
22 are still in a global pandemic.

1 And in Illinois and in Macon County where I
2 live, the numbers are trending upwards and at the
3 absolute bare minimum, this moratorium has to be
4 upheld until we reach herd immunity, and we're only
5 at 25 percent, so that's far on the horizon.

6 Ameren is profiting, they are still putting
7 up huge profits, people are suffering at this time
8 to do the right thing and help people keep these
9 moratoriums in place. And I would encourage you to
10 look far beyond herd immunity because that's just a
11 starting point to where people can start to feel
12 safe and start to rebuild. So cutting people off
13 at the legs, whenever they're just starting to get
14 a foothold on getting their lives back in order is
15 not only a mistake, it's a cruelty.

16 So again, please do the right thing and
17 uphold this moratorium and also please consider
18 that just because the fact that many people wanted
19 to speak here today on this issue being so
20 important, limiting public comment because it's an
21 important issue like this seems counter-intuitive.
22 I think you should welcome participation, even if

1 it means spending a few extra minutes in the
2 meeting. Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next,
4 Mr. Allan Max Axelrod. Mr. Axelrod, are you on?

5 MR. AXELROD: Indeed. Can you hear me?

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you. Once
7 you state and spell your name, please proceed.

8 MR. AXELROD: All right. My name is Allan
9 Max Axelrod, A-L-L-A-N, M-A-X, A-X-E-L-R-O-D. I'm
10 the campaign lead of No Ameren Shutoffs, a
11 zero-dollar all-volunteer grassroots group,
12 spanning the state north and south, east and west.
13 There is no financial interest for what we are
14 doing. We are trying to protect our most
15 vulnerable people, the folks that policymakers
16 often forget.

17 To Ameren Illinois, by contrast, in quarter
18 two of 2020, had a 30 percent -- a 36 percent
19 increase in their profits per share relative to
20 2019. In quarter three, when they only had one
21 week of utility shutoffs, they matched their
22 profits per share of the previous year. In quarter

1 four when they were again banned from utility
2 shutoffs, they had a four percent increase in their
3 profits per share.

4 When we talk about profits per share, we're
5 not talking about a corporation that's struggling
6 to make ends meet. This is about a corporation
7 trying to maximize profits over the bodies of our
8 residents who you all are supposed to be
9 representing their interests.

10 Before, we have had conversations about who
11 the buck stops with. Before, it's been the buck
12 stops with Pritzker, and that's absolutely true, no
13 matter how many times he gets fact-checked by the
14 press, he just keeps on going. You've told our
15 callers this information. Citizens Utility Board
16 has told us this information. But with this plan,
17 as you propose, the buck quite clearly stops with
18 you.

19 You do not have to do these sorts of things.
20 You do not have to meekly bargain with utility
21 corporations, and you have done additional actions
22 before to advocate on behalf of Illinoisians that you

1 haven't done today. You can issue a letter
2 explaining to the utility corporations the massive
3 loss of life that we are likely to experience.

4 We do not, at all, trust these corporations
5 to abide by the rate-limiting of the disconnections
6 that occur. They aren't even following the rules
7 now, how can we trust them later? Please do the
8 right thing. Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next, Kyle
10 Auer. Are you there?

11 MR. AUER: Yeah. Yeah. I'm here.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hi, Mr. Auer. Please
13 state and spell your name and then you may proceed.

14 MR. AUER: Yeah. It's Kyle Auer, K-Y-L-E,
15 A-U-E-R. Okay. So thank you for having me today.
16 I am, again, Kyle Auer. I'm part of the Illinois
17 People's Action. So the Washington Post had a
18 journalist sent to Peoria, Illinois, due to the
19 extent of the impact of the moratorium and the
20 utility shutoffs. But the Social Service Offices
21 didn't even know the people who had been shut off,
22 which means there's a distinct lack of

1 accountability and transparency here of all of
2 these companies because clearly, that means that
3 there could have been several hundreds of homes
4 that could have been impacted by this shutoff, and
5 they weren't getting the visibility that they
6 needed for the clear problem that's going on in
7 this state.

8 And Ameren has had a 36 percent increase in
9 profits per share at the start of the pandemic
10 lockdown, and with requirements of restore utility
11 services, suspend disconnections, and at the cost
12 of Illinois' employment crisis. In quarter two of
13 2020 of Ameren's Features of the Line, "Yesterday
14 we announced second quarter 2020 earnings of 98
15 cents per share compared to 72 cents per share
16 earned in 2019. We matched profits per share in
17 quarter three of 2019 to quarter three of 2020,
18 shutoffs started in the last week of this quarter.
19 Four percent increase in profits per share from
20 quarter four 2019 to quarter four 2020. Most
21 shutoffs happened during this time span."

22 That's all I have. I'm going to relieve the

1 rest of my time. Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Auer.

3 Next, Kenneth Crowe. Mr. Crowe, are you on?

4 MR. CROWE: I'm on the phone.

5 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Great. Please state
6 and spell your name, then you can proceed.

7 MR. CROWE: My name is Kenneth Crowe, that
8 is, K-E-N-N-E-T-H, C-R-O-W-E, but I go by Kenny.
9 Let me know when my time starts.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Your time has started.

11 MR. CROWE: I would like to ask the
12 government of Illinois to please stop waging wars
13 on the poor people of Illinois.

14 There are people all over the state that have
15 lost jobs or had hours cut due to a pandemic that
16 is no fault of their own. And we have people in
17 Illinois that work jobs all the time and pay their
18 way, but they're unable to do so lately because of
19 statewide shutdowns and stay-at-home orders that
20 are at no fault of their own and they have,
21 unwillingly, fallen behind on payments.

22 And there's a -- I want you to think of the

1 people who are scared and worried about utility
2 shutoffs on the horizon, while they try to get back
3 to work, as safely as they can, hopeful that they
4 can keep utilities paid so they can stay clean for
5 work, have heat at night, care for their kids and
6 their families, and they're going through all these
7 emotions while all these things are happening
8 around them that is out of their control.

9 Distress and the mental strain on them is
10 something that a lot of people, perhaps such as
11 yourself, do not quite understand. Now I live in
12 Pana. We've had about 50 shutoffs here and about
13 180, to 190 in Christian County. Twenty percent of
14 Pana's people here live below the poverty line
15 since the last census. Places like this get
16 overlooked by big cities, often, but we're
17 essential, too. Our economy has fallen away from
18 us, which causes low income in these areas.

19 People here work and pay taxes and they
20 expect to get something for it. Now we get nothing
21 compared to what we're paying taxes for. The greed
22 of the government, the overtaxation, the lack of

1 social resources, and large companies being treated
2 as more important than the people has got to stop.

3 So I do ask the people, people such as
4 yourself in Illinois, to stop waging wars on poor
5 people and punishing people for something that is
6 not their fault. I ask for serious action to be
7 taken for the safety of Illinois' people and their
8 basic utility needs because the government of
9 Illinois is not doing that. And I'm speaking for
10 the Christian County DSA. Thank you for the time.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next,
12 Ms. Lena Walker.

13 MS. WALKER: Hi. Yes. Can you hear me?

14 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you.

15 MS. WALKER: Okay. Thank you. My name is
16 Lena Walker, spelled L-E-N-A, W-A-L-K-E-R.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: You may proceed,
18 Ms. Walker.

19 MS. WALKER: Thank you. I'm a member of the
20 Graduate Employees Organization, Local 6300 at
21 University of Illinois. I also work as a teaching
22 assistant at the U of I. Many of my students have

1 returned to live with their families in order to
2 provide additional financial and domestic support
3 during this time of economic hardship. Some of
4 these students have trouble accessing reliable WiFi
5 or even a working computer either because the power
6 in their house has been shutoff or their family is
7 trying to cut back on electricity to prevent
8 shutoffs.

9 As their instructor, I see firsthand how much
10 their work-in-progress are suffering because of
11 this. As you can possibly see, my power is
12 currently off right now, thankfully for
13 maintenance, but I, right now, have to walk down to
14 the library, charge my phone, come back to my
15 apartment, use the external battery pack to try and
16 get my work done and reduce my exposure to others.
17 It's extremely disruptive. We're now in the
18 midterm of the spring semester, which is a time
19 when many students on campus are getting --

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Excuse me. I can't hear
21 you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Ms. Walker, you cut

1 out.

2 MS. WALKER: -- coursework. I know, sorry.
3 I had a -- I was getting a phone call.

4 A lot of students are going to find
5 themselves held back another semester or possibly
6 even a year because they're unable to complete
7 their coursework or graduate without the academic
8 standing they've worked so hard to achieve.

9 As graduate students, we're fortunate to have
10 the protection of our union, which can bargain
11 collectively with the university to ensure viable
12 working conditions. Undergraduates have no such
13 protection. And it's up to all of us to ensure
14 that the young people have the support that they
15 need and are held back as little as possible by the
16 challenges of the pandemic. We need to treat
17 people's homes like public education institutions
18 because right now they are operating as such.

19 Would we shutoff power to an elementary
20 school or to the U of I? Protection of utility
21 access is imperative because it's inhumane to deny
22 people basic services in the middle of a health and

1 economic crisis. Keep the moratorium on shutoffs
2 and enforce it, at least until the end of the
3 school year, and ideally, until an adequate
4 recovery from our current crisis has been achieved.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Next,
7 Mr. Drake Materre.

8 MR. MATERRE: My name is Drake Materre,
9 D-R-A-K-E, M-A-T-E-R-R-E, and I'm the senior
10 project manager of Natural Path Nutrition,
11 Incorporated. You all switched -- in order to
12 extend the moratorium or to stop utility shutoffs,
13 you added water to LIHEAP.

14 There's a term called structural violence.
15 Structural violence analyzes the structural
16 arrangements that create violence and harm.
17 Obviously, not extending the moratorium on utility
18 shutoffs is structural violence, so you all are
19 creating violence, and committing violence, acts of
20 violence on the people. And just like that white
21 man did in Atlanta, in Georgia.

22 When we talk about structural violence and we

1 talked about the lack of access or the inadequate
2 access to the resources, it is not intuitive for
3 water utility -- for water utilities to be added to
4 LIHEAP without a direct or an adequate form of
5 communication to the people. So you are actively
6 participating in that structural violence and the
7 harm against the people.

8 Obviously, we are asking you to do what's
9 right and stand by the people and extend the
10 moratorium on all utility shutoffs because again,
11 people can go unhoused even without being evicted,
12 with -- even without evictions. I believe you all
13 know what's right, maybe. I don't know. But think
14 about the structural violence that's at play here,
15 think about the structural arrangements, and think
16 about how we can adequately relay the information
17 to the people to ensure that they are actively
18 getting the resources that are needed. Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Rita
20 Conery. Ms. Conery, are you there? Doing a quick
21 search. Last call for Rita Conery?

22 (No verbal response.)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. Next is Benjamin
2 George Theobald.

3 MR. THEOBALD: Hi. Hello, Can you hear me?

4 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: We can hear you.

5 MR. THEOBALD: Hi. My name is Benjamin
6 George Theobald, B-E-N-J-A-M-I-N, George is my
7 middle name, G-E-O-R-G-E, and my last name is
8 Theobald, T-H-E-O-B-A-L-D. And I -- yes, I'm
9 speaking on behalf of -- or as a member of
10 Champaign-Urbana DSA. I reside in Urbana,
11 Illinois.

12 I'm asking that you please extend the
13 moratorium on utility shutoff. Unfortunately,
14 people have still been getting their utilities,
15 their water shut off. I spoke to a young mother a
16 few months ago who had her water shutoff. She,
17 unfortunately, lost her job and her hours were cut
18 back and this was a young mother with a two -- a
19 one-year-old and a two-year-old and I believe she
20 was pregnant with another baby on the way. And she
21 didn't have water and she couldn't -- and she was
22 forced to live with another woman who,

1 unfortunately, had COVID.

2 So as you can imagine, their situation was
3 very dire, and it was -- and unfortunately, with
4 programs like LIHEAP, they are not year round and
5 they also don't offer assistance with things like
6 water, which I don't understand. Why do you have
7 programs that don't offer assistance for -- you
8 offer assistance for utilities like electricity,
9 but not water, which we desperately need in a
10 pandemic, so I ask you to please extend this
11 moratorium, put people over profits, and as Martin
12 Luther King, Jr. Once said, "The time is always
13 right to do what is right." I yield the rest of my
14 time. Thank you very much.

15 THE COURT: Thank you. Finally, Ms. Jessica
16 Motsinger.

17 MS. MOTSINGER: Hello.

18 THE COURT: Hi, Ms. Motsinger. You -- if you
19 could state and spell your name and then we'll
20 start the clock.

21 MS. MOTSINGER: Yes. My name is Jessica
22 Motsinger and I am with Indivisible Metro East and

1 down here, 12 miles East of Saint Louis, so
2 southern Illinois.

3 I'm asking that you all continue with the
4 moratorium at least until the House Bill 2877, the
5 Rent and Utility Relief Bill gets enacted. This
6 House Bill not only offers temporary relief to
7 Illinois citizens that are in most need, but
8 appropriate, thus ensuring that the federal funds
9 go directly to relieve any costs or debts that the
10 utilities might take on.

11 These utilities, as have been spoken earlier,
12 are not hurting. They're in no way hurting under
13 the current situation, in the current moratorium,
14 so I don't anticipate that they would incur any
15 more harm or pain if you guys continue. Sorry, I
16 have a cat moving around my computer. With this
17 bill that ensures, also, that there is no cost at
18 all to the State of Illinois, no fiscal
19 responsibility being taken on by the state.

20 We also need to realize that the shutoffs not
21 only cause undue mental health burdens, but also
22 cause a direct cascade of consequences for the most

1 needy and vulnerable of our citizens. Some of
2 these consequences could be costly, whether it's
3 our medications that go bad because we don't have
4 refrigeration, or it could be a mother that can't
5 bathe her child or have electric, thus not having a
6 suitable home.

7 This causes a lot of things and it helps --
8 and it causes a lot of burdens from veterans that I
9 know, reservists, disabled, homebound, the gambit
10 goes on. There is more benefit to helping our
11 citizens than there is any kind of cost to any
12 utility out there. So please extend the
13 moratorium, allow House Bill 2877 to get passed.
14 Thank you very much for your time.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Okay. This
16 concludes our requests to speak, so we are going to
17 move forward on our agenda.

18 We're going to move onto our public
19 utilities agenda.

20 There are edits to the February
21 18th, 2021, Regular Open Meeting Minutes. Are
22 there any objections to approving the minutes as

1 edited?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
4 minutes are approved.

5 Under our electric items, Item E1
6 concerns MidAmerican's filing to make LED lights
7 the new company standard for area lighting. The
8 Commission staff reviewed the filing and
9 recommended not suspending it. Are there any
10 objections to not suspending the filing?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
13 filing is not suspended.

14 Item E2 concerns an amendment to 83 Ill.
15 Adm. Code 305 to incorporate the most recent
16 edition of the national electrical safety code,
17 which includes changes concerning underground
18 cable, grounding requirements, die insulator
19 placement rules, and grades of construction
20 application rules. The order initiates a
21 rule-making to accomplish this amendment and
22 authorize the commencement of the first notice

1 period for the rule-making. Are there any
2 objections to approving the order?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
5 is approved.

6 Item E3 concerns a petition to reopen Docket
7 19-0995, which is an approval of the Illinois Power
8 Agency's long-term renewable resource procurement
9 plan. The IPA requests that this docket be
10 reopened and approve certain modification to the
11 IPA's revised LTRRPP, necessitated by the COVID-19
12 global health pandemic.

13 Because renewable energy credits, or RECs,
14 delivery contracts provide payments only once
15 systems are energized, project energization delays,
16 resulting from the pandemic, have aggressively
17 shifted projected Renewable Portfolio Standard
18 budget expenses chronologically forward into future
19 delivery years.

20 The IPA seeks Commission approval of
21 modifications to the revised plan, adopting a
22 governing regimen to address a reduction in

1 expenses across various categories of expenditures
2 under the RPS. Are there any objections to
3 granting the petition?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
6 petition is granted.

7 Item E4 concerns Ameren's reconciliation of
8 revenues collected under power procurement riders
9 for the period of June 1st, 2018 through May 31st
10 of 2019. The order approves the reconciliation as
11 reflected in the appendix to the order, finding
12 that the costs were prudently incurred. Are there
13 any objections to approving the order?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
16 is approved.

17 Items E5 through E7 concern petitions for
18 confidential treatment of petitioner's reports.
19 The orders grant the protection, finding that the
20 information to be proprietary and confidential.
21 Are there any objections to considering these items
22 together and approving the orders?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 Hearing none, the orders are approved.

3 Item E8 concerns Ameren's petition to
4 initiate review of Rider PTR or Peak Time Rebate.
5 The petition requests that the Commission evaluate
6 whether residential customers receive any net
7 benefits under the Peak Time Rewards program under
8 Rider PTR. Ameren, Staff and CUB created a
9 consensus report memorializing the suggested course
10 of action regarding the continuation of Ameren's
11 Peak Time Rewards program.

12 According to the consensus report, Ameren
13 began bidding it's program participation in the
14 MISO Capacity Auction for program year June 2016 to
15 May 2017. With respect to participation and
16 rebates for program year June 2020 to May 2021,
17 there are 123,010 participants in the program and a
18 total of \$40,769 in rebates paid to customers.

19 The order allows Ameren to continue its peak
20 time rewards program under the Rider PTR through
21 May of 2023, and incorporate appropriate
22 modifications pursuant to MISO's approved changes

1 to notice times and number of event hours. The
2 Commission further orders that Ameren file tariff
3 modifications under its prior PTR peak time rewards
4 program prior to the forthcoming MISO changes. Are
5 there any objections to approving the order?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
8 is approved.

9 Items E9 through E11 concern citations for
10 failure to file Compliance Recertification Reports
11 as required by Part 454 of the Commission rules.
12 Respondents failed to appear at the hearings and
13 did not file exceptions to the proposed orders.
14 The orders suspend Respondent's Certificate of
15 Service Authority to operate as agents, brokers and
16 consultants. Are there any objections to
17 considering these items together and approving the
18 orders?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
21 orders are approved.

22 Item E12 concerns Docket 20-0822, which is a

1 complaint against Inovateus Solar regarding
2 improperly installed distributed generation
3 projects. The complainants filed a motion to
4 voluntarily dismiss the complaint without
5 prejudice. Are there any objection to granting the
6 motion to dismiss?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
9 motion to dismiss is granted.

10 Item E13 concerns an application for
11 Certificate of Service Authority to install,
12 maintain, or repair electric vehicle charging
13 stations. The order grants the certificate,
14 finding that the Applicant meet their requirements.
15 Are there any objections to approving the order?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
18 order's approved.

19 Item E14 concerns ComEd's proposed revision
20 to Rider NS, or non-standard services and
21 facilities regarding the treatment of the
22 replacement costs of an automatic throw-over switch

1 at the end of its useful life. In December of
2 2020, the Commission suspended the proposed
3 revisions until April 11th of 2021 pending the
4 Commission review. This order extends the period
5 of suspension until October 11th of 2021. Are
6 there any objections to approving the re-suspension
7 order?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
10 is approved.

11 Item E15 concerns an application for
12 Certificate of Service Authority to operate as an
13 alternative electric supplier and requests for
14 confidential treatment of certain information
15 contained in the application and attachments for a
16 period of not less than five years. The order
17 grants the certificate and affords confidential
18 treatment of the requested information. Are there
19 any objections to approving the order?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
22 is approved.

1 Item E16 concerns ComEd's verified petition
2 for special permission to file and put into effect
3 on less than 45 days' notice, revision to Rider
4 Retail Customer, or Rider RCA. Rider RCA
5 authorizes ComEd to collect a Renewable Energy
6 Resources and Coal Technology Development
7 Assistance Charge. ComEd proposes to extend the
8 expiration date of the charge from December the
9 31st of 2020, to December 31st of 2021, in order to
10 reflect its continued obligation to collect this
11 charge through December 31st of 2021. Are there
12 any objections to granting the special permission?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
15 special permission is granted.

16 Item E17 concerns an application for
17 certification to install energy efficiency measures
18 in Illinois. The order denies the certificate,
19 finding that the Applicant did not meet the
20 requirements by failing to file proper Certificate
21 of Insurance. Are there any objections to
22 approving the order?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
3 is approved.

4 Items E18 through E20 concern
5 petitions to cancel Certificates of Service
6 Authority to install energy efficiency measures.
7 The order cancels the certificates. Are there any
8 objections to considering these items together and
9 approving the orders?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
12 orders are approved.

13 Items E21 through E34 concern applications
14 for certification to install energy efficiency
15 measures in Illinois. The orders grant the
16 certificates finding that the Applicants meet the
17 requirements. Are there any objections to
18 considering these items together and approving the
19 orders?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
22 orders are approved.

1 Under the gas items. Item G1
2 concerns Ameren's petition to initiate a proceeding
3 to determine the accuracy and prudence of
4 qualifying infrastructure investment. The order
5 approves the reconciliation as reflected in the
6 appendix to the order, finding that the costs were
7 prudently incurred. Are there any objections to
8 approving the order?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
11 is approved.

12 Item G2 concerns Consumer Gas Company's
13 proposed increase in rates for gas distribution
14 service. In December 2020, the Commission
15 suspended the proposed increase in rates through
16 April 3rd of 2021. The Commission's investigation
17 in this matter is not concluded and the order
18 re-suspends the filing until October 3rd of 2021.
19 Are there any objections to approving the order?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
22 is approved.

1 Items G3 through G8, concern requests for
2 proprietary treatment of information in the
3 Petitioner's reports. The orders grant for
4 protection, finding that the information is highly
5 proprietary and confidential. Are there any
6 objections to considering these items together and
7 approving the orders?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
10 orders are approved.
11 Under the telecommunications items, Item T1
12 concerns Grafton's application for designation as
13 an eligible telecommunications carrier for the sole
14 purpose of qualifying for lifeline support only.
15 The order grants the request, finding that Grafton
16 has sufficiently demonstrated that it satisfies the
17 federal and state requirements for designation as
18 an ETC for the limited purpose of receiving federal
19 universal service lifeline support. The order also
20 grants confidential treatment of some of the
21 information in the application. Are there any
22 objections to approving the order?

1 (No verbal response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
3 is approved.

4 Item T2 concerns an application for a
5 certificate of interexchange service authority to
6 provide facilities based interexchange
7 telecommunications services, a certificate of
8 service authority to provide re-sold local and
9 interexchange services, and a certificate of
10 exchange service authority to provide facilities
11 based local telecommunication services. The order
12 grants the certificates, finding that the Applicant
13 meets the requirements. Are there any objection to
14 approving the order?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
17 is approved.

18 Item T3 concerns a request to cancel
19 certificates of service authority to provide
20 telecommunication services. The order cancels the
21 certificate, finding that the cancellation will not
22 deprive any Illinois customers of necessary

1 telecommunications service and is not otherwise
2 contrary to the public interest. Are there any
3 objections to approving the order?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
6 is approved.

7 Items T4 through T15 concern requests for
8 proprietary treatment of information in the
9 petitioner's annual reports. The orders grant the
10 protection, finding that the information is highly
11 proprietary and confidential. Are there any
12 objections to considering these items together and
13 approving the orders?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
16 orders are approved.

17 Under our water and sewer items,
18 Item W1 concerns Illinois America's application for
19 a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
20 to provide water service to a certain area in Logan
21 County. The order grants the application, finding
22 that the service to the proposed area is necessary

1 to provide adequate, reliable, and efficient
2 service, and is the least cost means of satisfying
3 the service needs of the customers. Are there any
4 objections to approving the order?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
7 is approved.

8 Under our miscellaneous items, Item
9 M1 concerns Staff's petition to reopen Docket
10 20-0309, which is a moratorium on disconnection of
11 utility services during the public health
12 emergency. As it became clear that the Public
13 Health Emergency would extend past March 31st of
14 2021, and the utility customers would again be
15 subject to service disconnection for non-payment,
16 the parties to this docket met to determine what
17 steps could be agreed to mitigate the effect of
18 customers' disconnection in light of the fact that
19 many customers have accumulated substantial
20 arrearages during the winter moratorium.

21 These discussions resulted in the parties
22 agreeing to two stipulations:

1 First, the large electric and gas utilities
2 stipulation and large water and sewer utilities
3 stipulation. On March 15th of 2021, Staff
4 petitioned the Commission to reopen this docket and
5 adopt both stipulations. Among other provisions,
6 the stipulation specified that utilities may send
7 disconnection notices on a staggered basis starting
8 April 1st of 2021. Such notices must contain
9 information regarding how to obtain available
10 payment assistance.

11 Disconnections will take place on a staggered
12 schedule. It will begin with residential customers
13 having the highest arrearages who have failed to
14 make payment, or seek a deferred payment
15 arrangement. Utilities will waive reconnection
16 fees for low-income customers and reconnect these
17 customers whose income is 300 percent or less than
18 the federal poverty level based upon payment of 25
19 percent of the outstanding balance, which may be
20 paid with customer assistant funds and with the
21 remainder of the arrearage incorporated into a
22 deferred payment arrangement.

1 The utilities will also make additional bill
2 payment assistant funds available through existing
3 bill payment assistant programs created by prior
4 stipulations at levels and terms described in the
5 stipulations. The order reopens the docket and
6 adopts both the stipulations. Are there any
7 objections to approving the order?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the order
10 is approved.

11 I just want to commend all the parties,
12 again, for coming together to agree on these
13 important measures to ensure additional protections
14 to the consumers are in place. I would continue to
15 remind some customers who receive a disconnection
16 notice that they must call their utility to enroll
17 in a DPA. And then, also as reminder, we do have a
18 consumer services division. There's information of
19 how to contact the Consumer Services Division on
20 our website at "icc.online.gov" and the number
21 again is (800) 524-0795.

22 There are no petitions for

1 rehearing under other business.

2 Item 01 concerns approval of
3 batches, contracts, and confirmations under the
4 Illinois Adjustable Block Program. Are there any
5 objections to approving the program administrator's
6 submissions?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
9 submissions are approved.

10 Item 02 concerns March 2021 solicitation of
11 bids to sell renewable energy credits from new
12 utility-scale wind projects to Ameren, ComEd, and
13 MidAmerican. Are there any objections to approving
14 the Procurement Administrator's recommendation on
15 selection of winning bids?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
18 recommendation is approved.

19 Item 03 concerns April of 2021, association
20 of bids to sell standard energy products to Ameren,
21 ComEd, and MidAmerican. Are there any objections
22 to approving the Procurement Administrator's

1 benchmark methodology?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
4 methodology is approved.

5 Item 04 concerns April of 2021 solicitations
6 to bids to sell zonal resource credits to Ameren.
7 Are there any objections to approving the
8 Procurement Administrator's benchmark methodology?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
11 methodology is approved.

12 Item 05 concerns approval of batches,
13 contracts and confirmations under the Illinois
14 Solar for All program. Are there any objections to
15 approving the Program Administrator's submissions?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Hearing none, the
18 submissions are approved.

19 This concludes our public utilities
20 agenda.

21 Judge Teague-Kingsley, do we have
22 any other matters to come before the Commission

1 today?

2 JUDGE TEAGUE-KINGSLEY: No, Madam Chairman,
3 but I had a quick question. I wanted to clarify
4 that for 20-0309, the vote was to approve the
5 petition to reopen and the order?

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Yes. That's correct.

7 JUDGE TEAGUE-KINGSLEY: Okay. Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you for
9 clarifying.

10 JUDGE TEAGUE-KINGSLEY: Nothing further.

11 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. Do any
12 commissioners have any other business to discuss?

13 MS. OLIVA: Yes. Chairman Zalewski, this is
14 Commissioner Oliva, for the record. I have some
15 news to share. Last night, I informed the
16 Governor's Office, Chair Zalewski, and my
17 colleagues on the Commission of my intent to resign
18 effective March 31st, 2021.

19 It has been the opportunity of a lifetime to
20 serve the people of the State of Illinois as the
21 first Latina commissioner on the Illinois Commerce
22 Commission. I truly appreciate the time I spent in

1 this role and working with the incredibly talented,
2 hardworking, and knowledgeable Illinois Commerce
3 Commission staff. I have learned so much from each
4 of my Commission colleagues, working alongside
5 them.

6 From Chairman Zalewski, I learned about grit,
7 determination, and perseverance leading through
8 very difficult times.

9 From Commissioner Kimbrel, I learned about
10 thoughtfulness in how considerate you are about our
11 incredible staff and each of us, checking in on us
12 all the time.

13 Commissioner Carrigan, I will be in eternal
14 awe of your wisdom and incredible legacy in the
15 State of Illinois. And so thankful for your sage
16 advice.

17 Commissioner Bocanegra, you are a superwoman
18 and I think you have superwoman powers with your
19 high energy and ability to grasp technical
20 accounting issues with such ease. I don't know
21 when you sleep and I will so miss your early
22 morning e-mails at 5:00 a.m. Saying, "Take a look

1 at my edits."

2 Serving in two administrations has been a
3 tremendous honor. And I thank Governor Pritzker
4 and his team for their leadership during an
5 incredibly challenging year. I also want to thank
6 former Governor Bruce Rauner for appointing me to
7 this role and to the Illinois Senate for their
8 confirmation.

9 To everyone I have worked with along the way,
10 from my talented advisors, Azeema, Janel, Gerardo,
11 and Kealie and my intern Haley, to industry
12 leaders from both the consumer advocate and utility
13 sides, I thank you for teaching me so much and
14 helping me do my work as a commissioner.

15 This decision marks the end of my 20-plus
16 years in public service. Effectuating Illinois'
17 energy policy and ensuring citizens have a safe,
18 reliable, and affordable utility service has been
19 an amazing experience and one that I will forever
20 be grateful for. I'm so proud to have been a part
21 of the nationally recognized work the Commission
22 has done to increase supplier diversity in the

1 energy and transportation sectors.

2 I wish the ICC Chair and commissioners
3 continued success going forward. This is my public
4 goodbye for now, but it's definitely not lights
5 out. Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you,
7 Commissioner. I would just like to personally
8 thank you for your years of service, both at the
9 Commission and at the state. You are a trailblazer
10 in many ways of particularly on supplier diversity
11 issues, both for the State of Illinois and on a
12 national level, so we thank you for that. You did
13 great work here, and in your other roles, and we
14 wish you the best in future endeavors. So thank
15 you.

16 MS. BOCANEGRA: Chair Zalewski, this is
17 Commissioner Bocanegra. I also have a few remarks
18 following yours. So I prepared some remarks
19 somewhat unexpectedly. So I'd like to share some
20 wonderful remarks about Commissioner Oliva before
21 she departs.

22 While I did not get the chance to work with

1 Commissioner Oliva as long as I would have liked, I
2 would be remiss to not acknowledge the type of
3 colleague and friend Commissioner Oliva has been.
4 Although we had been in mutual professional circles
5 for some time, I did not actually get the chance to
6 know Commissioner Oliva until shortly before my
7 arrival at the Commission. I found someone who
8 knew someone who knew someone who gave me her
9 contact information as I was looking to learn more
10 about the role.

11 Sadzi was more than willing to be helpful and
12 describe the important work of the Illinois
13 Commerce Commission, sitting down with me over
14 coffee. Her passion and enthusiasm was
15 instantaneously recognizable, but also inspiring.
16 And after coming on to the Commission, Commissioner
17 Oliva continued that spirit and that commitment to
18 camaraderie and was intentional in helping me
19 navigate my first NARUC summit, introducing me
20 where needed and making suggestions as to what
21 sessions to attend so that I could learn as much as
22 possible.

1 Commissioner Oliva is recognized and
2 respected by her peers both locally and nationally.
3 Her dedication to public service has certainly been
4 exemplified through her numerous appointments,
5 including the Electric Power Research Institute
6 Advisory Council, the Financial Research Institute
7 Advisory Board, the Gas Technology Institute
8 Advisory Committee, the National Utilities
9 Diversity Council Board of Directors, Vice
10 President for the Mid-America Regulatory
11 Conference, and of course, the previous service as
12 the Illinois representative for the Organization of
13 MISO States, OMS Board of Directors.

14 Commissioner Oliva also represented both
15 Illinois and NARUC in her international
16 contribution to the power sector and communications
17 arena, assisting Panama on renewable energy
18 integration and smart grids, and on stakeholder
19 engagement and communication in Indonesia.

20 Commissioner Oliva's contributions to the
21 utility and regulatory space are aspirational and
22 commendatory, indeed. But aside from her

1 accomplishments, Commissioner Oliva has been a
2 great colleague, a good mentor, and a good friend,
3 whether it was encouraging myself and her
4 co-commissioners to dig deep into regulatory issues
5 or to pursue topics of interest that contribute to
6 the Illinois Commerce Commission's national
7 presence, or whether it was she and I exchanging
8 important tips on skincare and hair routine.

9 You have always led by example and with the
10 highest ethics and integrity. I thank you for your
11 public service and you will be missed. Thanks.

12 MR. CARRIGAN: Chairman, this is Commissioner
13 Michael Carrigan. If I could, I'd like to make a
14 few comments.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Of course.

16 MR. CARRIGAN: Well, thank you. Commissioner
17 Oliva, as you and I talked this morning by phone, I
18 received this news last night after dinner. I
19 disclosed to you in our call today that you blew up
20 my time that was being spent on filling out my NCAA
21 brackets. You took me totally out of sync on that
22 with this surprise.

1 But echoing the comments of those that have
2 already spoke, you're accomplished, you're known at
3 a national level, a Midwest level, and of course,
4 at the Illinois ICC. You've always taken your
5 responsibilities very seriously. As I told you
6 this morning by phone, I wish you the very, very
7 best going forward with your new career and hope
8 that we can stay in touch. Thank you for your time
9 at the ICC and thank you for your two decades of
10 public service. Well done.

11 MR. KIMBREL: Madam Chair, I'll round this
12 up. Commissioner Oliva, I'm still in shock. I'm
13 in total shock. I think we're all very excited for
14 you. We don't know what your next chapter is, but
15 extremely excited for you. You are extremely
16 thoughtful and kind. I appreciate what you said,
17 but I am in no way as kind and thoughtful as you
18 are. But I do appreciate that comment.

19 I also want to say that I had real anxiety
20 because, you know, you've given us two weeks and I
21 just knew -- we've got to get you some wine. So
22 that was -- that is on my mind, what to get you.

1 But it has been great working with you. You've
2 brought real balance to this Commission and I think
3 we are all grateful to have spent the time with you
4 while you were here. So thank you and I look
5 forward to hearing about your next chapter and
6 staying in contact with you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Thank you. And then
8 just moving on to some sad news.

9 It's with a heavy heart I wanted to
10 acknowledge the passing of Kevin Hecker, a
11 long-time Commission employee who passed away
12 earlier this week after a long battle against
13 cancer.

14 Kevin started at the Commission in February
15 of 2009. He started his career in the Commission's
16 consumer service division as a consumer counselor.
17 In May of 2013, he moved to the pipeline safety
18 division. He was a proud father of three kids: one
19 son, Collen; and two daughters, Caitlyn and Keely.
20 Kevin deeply loved his family and our thoughts and
21 prayers go out to them.

22 Kevin will be remembered for the energy and

1 passion that he brought to his job. He was always
2 willing to take on difficult tasks and would never
3 fail to offer aid. Kevin's manner allowed him to
4 make friends and his loyalty allowed him to keep
5 them. His day would start with a genuine good
6 morning and end with a genuine farewell. We are
7 touched by the outpouring of condolences by those
8 in the industry that worked with him. His
9 dedication to the Commission will be remembered and
10 his loss will be felt by all of his friends here at
11 the Commission.

12 Is there anything else the Commissioners
13 would like to say?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ZALEWSKI: Okay. With no other
16 objections, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled
18 matter adjourned at 12:42 p.m.)
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