

Andrew Weaver, M.L.A.
Oak Bay-Gordon Head



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May 27, 2016

Honourable Bill Bennett
Ministry of Energy and Mines
Parliament Buildings, Rm 301
PO Box 9060, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bennett,

I am contacting you today in light of a number of emails I have received from concerned constituents regarding BC Hydro's tiered billing system.

Electricity produced from renewable sources is the cleanest form of heating, we should be encouraging this. Yet with the changes to a tiered rate system a number of families in my constituency are finding it substantively more expensive to heat their homes with electricity as compared to the other heat sources available to them, such as oil or wood.

The idea that multi-tier pricing enhances conservation and efficiency, while theoretically correct, has other detrimental consequences. It inadvertently incentivizes fossil fuel use for heating and hot water. It also does not differentiate between a 10,000 square foot home in the Uplands with a single occupant and a 2000 square foot home in Gordon Head with a family of 6 living in it. These homes may use the same amount of electricity but one has far more people in it.

With this in mind, I am writing to ask you the following question: Why does BC Hydro have multi-tier pricing and what is the justification for its implementation in B.C.?

Thank you for your time.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Weaver'.

Andrew Weaver, MLA