JAY INSLEE
Governor

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING AND EXTENDING EMERGENCY
PROCLAMATIONS 20-05 and 20-23, et seq.,

20-23.6

Ratepayer Assistance and Preservation of Essential Services

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout Washington State of as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, I have subsequently issued amendatory Proclamations 20-06 through 20-53 and 20-55 through 20-61 exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease, caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic, has broadly spread throughout Washington State, significantly increasing the threat of serious associated health risks statewide; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a global economic slowdown and an economic downturn in Washington State, resulting in layoffs and reduced work hours for a significant percentage of our workforce and significant reductions in business activity impacting our commercial sectors that support our state's economic vitality, including severe impacts to the large number of small businesses that make Washington State's economy thrive; and

WHEREAS, the available financial resources of many of our people and businesses are becoming limited with many of them suffering considerable economic hardship as a result of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economy, resulting in a significant threat of utility services being disconnected and late payment fees being imposed; and

WHEREAS, maintaining provision of utility services during this crisis is an essential tool in sustaining and protecting the health and welfare of our people and businesses as a critical part of the overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission regulates the rates and services of investor-owned utilities in Washington State and is coordinating with utilities throughout the State to protect the availability and affordability of essential utility services for those economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through a variety of measures, including: suspending disconnection of utilities for nonpayment, waiving late fees, working with affected utility customers to establish payment arrangements, and improving access to energy assistance for affected customers; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-23, waiving and suspending statutes and prohibiting certain activities relating to utility services; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-23.1, amending and continuing the waivers and suspension of statutes and the prohibitions of certain activities relating to utility services; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions in Proclamations 20-23 et seq., were extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or May 4, 2020, whichever occurs first, and which I acknowledged and similarly extended the prohibitions therein to until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or May 4, 2020, in Proclamation 20-23.2; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-23 et seq., were again extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or May 31, 2020, whichever occurs first, and which I acknowledged and similarly extended the prohibitions therein to until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or May 31, 2020, in Proclamation 20-23.3; and

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-23 et seq., were again extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or June 17, 2020, whichever occurs first, and which I acknowledged and similarly extended the prohibitions therein to until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or June 17, 2020, in Proclamation 20-23.4; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-23 et seq., were again extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or July 1, 2020, whichever occurs first, and which I acknowledged and similarly extended the prohibitions therein to until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or July 1, 2020, in Proclamation 20-23.5; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-23 et seq., were again extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or August 1, 2020, whichever occurs first; and

WHEREAS, to fully extend Proclamations 20-23, et seq., it is also necessary for me to extend the prohibitions therein; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression throughout Washington State continues to threaten the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State, and remains a public disaster affecting life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health continues to maintain a Public Health Incident Management Team in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center and other supporting state agencies to manage the public health aspects of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, through the State Emergency Operations Center, continues coordinating resources across state government to support the Washington State Department of Health and local health officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continues coordinating with the Department of Health in assessing the impacts and long-term effects of the incident on Washington State and its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State, that Proclamation 20-05 and all amendments thereto remain in effect, and that Proclamations 20-05, 20-23, et seq., are amended to (1) recognize the extension of statutory waivers and suspensions therein by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or 11:59 p.m. on August 1, 2020, whichever occurs first, and (2) similarly extend the prohibitions therein until termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or 11:59 p.m. on August 1, 2020.

I again direct that the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented throughout state government. State agencies and departments are directed to continue utilizing state resources and doing everything reasonably possible to support implementation of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I continue to order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General to address the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department in addressing the outbreak. Additionally, I continue to direct the Washington State Department of Health, the

Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, and other agencies to identify and provide appropriate personnel for conducting necessary and ongoing incident related assessments.

FURTHERMORE, as a condition of the prohibitions under this proclamation, as amended, I require all utilities providing energy, telecommunications, and water services in Washington State to develop COVID-19 Customer Support Programs, consistent with the attached guidance document. The programs must be reviewed and posted prominently on a public website by August 1, 2020.

ADDITIONALLY, the prohibitions on disconnecting, refusing to reconnect, and charging late fees in this proclamation, as amended, are extended until termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or 11:59 p.m. on August 1, 2020.

Violators of this order may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5).

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 2nd day of July, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State