

From: Wharton Sinkler <wsinkler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 8:44 AM
To: PUC: <puc@puc.nh.gov>
Subject: Restore funding cut from NHSaves program

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Dear Public Utility Commission of New Hampshire,

I am writing to let you know I disagree with your decision to cut funds allocated to the NHSaves programs, which come from charges on household electricity bills.

There are a few reasons why this is a bad idea to do now:

- 1) The costs of fossil fuels are at high levels right now, and New Hampshire households need the help provided by NHSaves to reduce their exposure to these high prices, by making their homes more energy efficient. This is the purpose of the NHSaves programs, and cutting them right now when they are particularly needed and cost-effective for citizens is very counterproductive and unhelpful.
- 2) These programs take a long time to get established, and for people to grow accustomed to their availability. That includes both homeowners and landlords, as well as contractors. To get the most benefit out of programs like this, which provide help and expertise for energy efficiency, the programs need to be held steady for many years. It is not the kind of thing you want to cut and restore every few years, since this confuses people and gives the overall impression that the programs cannot be relied on. In that case, they won't be used as much, which harms the programs and the people they're meant to serve. Steadiness in managing these programs really adds to their value.
- 3) As a society, we need to be moving away from fossil fuels, because of their role in causing climate change. That is a major transition and can pose real challenges. Measures such as support and expertise for energy efficiency are sorely needed to make it easier. Why would you cut an important program for energy efficiency here in New Hampshire, right in the midst of this challenging transition?

My request is therefore as soon as possible to restore the cut funding to NHSaves.

Incidentally, I serve on the Town of Sandwich's Energy Committee. The committee was created to find ways to move Sandwich toward carbon neutrality, as stipulated by a Warrant Article our residents passed at the Town Meeting in March this year. To be effective at this, we could really use the help provided by the NHSaves programs and incentives they provide. So in order to help us in those efforts, please restore funding to NHSaves!

Thanks and Regards,
Wharton Sinkler
14 Bickford Cross Rd.
Sandwich, NH 03227
847-902-3869