

Energy Committee Copy



TOWN OF BRADFORD

NEW HAMPSHIRE 03221



OFFICE OF
SELECTMEN

TELEPHONE
603 938-5900

December 16, 2021

Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

We strongly oppose the New Hampshire Public Utility Commission's (NHPUC) decision to reject the State's Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan. This decision essentially guts the NH Saves Program – a program that has benefited NH residents, small businesses, municipalities, commercial entities, and our environment through weatherization e.g. insulation and air sealing, incentives and energy efficiency rebates.

The NH Saves Program has aided NH homeowners (especially those with low incomes) by saving money on their heating bills and improving the comfort in their homes. Weatherization also helps revitalize communities by spurring economic growth and reducing environmental impact and returns \$2.78 in non-energy benefits for every \$1.00 invested in the Program (National Evaluation). Once installed, energy-efficient weatherization measures continue to save money and energy year after year thus increasing household incomes.

NH small businesses that specialize in energy efficiency related services have begun laying off employees upon receiving notice that Eversource will stop taking new applications related to the NH Saves Program and to halt energy audits.

The Town of Bradford has embraced the NH Saves Program by enrolling four municipal buildings in the energy audit process and was counting on financial incentives to help fund many energy saving measures at these buildings. We were informed the program is on hold.

According to rankings released by the nonpartisan American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), New Hampshire's 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard is lowest in the Northeast. The high cost of energy and heavy reliance on fossil fuels continues to restrict economic development in our state.

We ask you to urge the NHPUC to approve the State's Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan and to increase funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Bradford Select Board,

Andrew Pinard, Chairman

Marlene Freyler, Selectman

Mary Ellen Pfeifle, Selectman

Cc: Jared Chicoine, Commissioner NH Department of Energy
Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman NH Public Utilities Commission