

RSA 125-0:5-a 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Contact: Diane.Bateman@puc.nh.go

July 31, 2012

Debra Howland, Executive Director New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 Fruit St., Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: DE 10-188, Supplemental Order of Notice dated 7/13/2012

Dear Ms. Howland;

On behalf of the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board established pursuant to RSA 125-O:5-a, I am filing this letter to communicate to the Commission a recommendation of the EESE Board relative to the disposition of RGGI funds for Energy Efficiency programs as provided for under Chapter 281 of the Laws of 2012.

At a meeting on July 13, 2012, the EESE Board reviewed and discussed the preliminary Synthesis Drafts for the Energy Efficiency Chapters of the VEIC Study including Chapter 6 relative to Low Income programs. The Chapter Synthesis Drafts are posted on the EESE Board website (www.puc.nh.gov/eese.htm). During the discussion on Chapter 6, the EESE Board noted that the Low Income energy efficiency programs in New Hampshire have very recently experienced substantial reductions in funding due to the depletion of available federal funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Moreover, it is our understanding that the ARRA funding for low-income weatherization allowed the state to meet the demand for low-income energy efficiency services and to build the infrastructure necessary to continue serving this demand. As noted in the Chapter 6 Synthesis Draft (page 2):

"Over the past several years, ARRA monies have significantly increased the funding for low-income weatherization in New Hampshire. If we are to maintain the trained workforce and momentum created by the Recovery Act, additional funding is needed now. The Team believes the EESE Board should recommend increasing the funding for low-income weatherization to the Public Utilities Commission."

That fully trained workforce has recently been cut, and the number of homes being weatherized has dropped substantially. A failure to provide additional funding at the earliest possible opportunity will have long-term consequences on infrastructure and on the savings being achieved under the low-income weatherization programs. As the Commission knows, this will also, in the long term, serve to increase the demand for services under the Electric Assistance Program.

We recognize that the Commission will need to address the many competing demands for increased energy efficiency funding in response to Chapter 281 and to conduct the appropriate deliberations on these matters in the context of Docket DE 10-188. In those deliberations, however, we ask that the Commission carefully consider options for increasing low-income energy efficiency funding at the earliest opportunity, including the option of using presently available RGGI funds to supplement low-income energy efficiency in the current program year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George Gantz, Vice-Chair

Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board