



**Superior Technical Ceramics**  
*Material Solutions*



July 13, 2017

[psbclerk@vermont.gov](mailto:psbclerk@vermont.gov)

Dear Commissioners Roisman, Cheney, and Hofmann,

Over the last several years, Superior Technical Ceramics (STC) has made numerous investments in Energy Efficiency, including improvements to our existing building and operations, and a building expansion. Like many others, we have worked through the opportunities for energy efficiency and there are no longer additional projects for us to undertake. It should be noted that while there has been ample support and advice from Efficiency Vermont, we have invested significant financial and other resources of our own in the form of participant costs.

We have invested from 2007 to 2017, in energy savings projects with overall costs of \$97,694.86 with Efficiency Vermont providing \$29,745.00 in reimbursement. In 2016, STC paid over \$379,000.00 in electrical costs; in addition to that, we paid Efficiency Vermont a total of \$28,257.12. It is time for the Energy Efficiency charge to be eliminated. The annual charge of over **\$28,000** that we pay on our electric bill would be better invested in improving our manufacturing efficiency, developing new products or investing in workforce development or recruitment. Continuing the efficiency tax increases cost and contributes to the competitiveness challenge that businesses in Vermont face as they work to grow and improve their operations in the state.

Superior Technical Ceramics is located in St. Albans, Vermont. We are a privately owned company with over 100 employees. Our multiple buildings currently encompass approximately 135,000 square feet of manufacturing space. Superior Technical Ceramics is the perfect size American company to provide fully integrated technical solutions in ceramic manufacturing. STC has been recognized as a market leading company in the material area since its start in 1898. Our commitment to materials development and continuous improvement set us apart from most of our competition.



ISO  
9001:2008





In addition to the concerns I have for my business, taxes like this along with the incentives for renewable energy have now made Vermont rates some of the highest in the Nation. The projects that we have invested in will cover the cost of investment within 4 years when including the assistance money from Efficiency Vermont; however, our yearly rate to Efficiency Vermont continues to increase and the number of opportunities to make improvements per dollar of investment are very few. When the yearly budget of Efficiency Vermont has grown to over 55 million per year, I believe they have become de-incentivizing factor in our state economy.

It is ironic that not too many years ago, the utility companies were part of the movement to drive for economic growth, to increase the amount of energy consumed was a measure of that growth. In the Vermont of today the paradigm is totally opposite, even growth of your current business in the most efficient energy means will result in an increased payment to Efficiency Vermont.

I believe that most business in Vermont including Green Mountain Power feel that in the case of Efficiency Vermont we have a non-progressive situation which needs resolution.

Sincerely,

*Richard T. Feeser*

Richard T. Feeser, President

