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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISS

Ms. Judith C. Whitney
Clerk of the Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701
Attn: Commissioners Roisman, Cheney and Hofmann

Dear Commissioners:

I understand you are reviewing the budget for Efficiency Vermont, and thought it would be useful for you to hear directly from a local business as to how we measure the value received and the cost of funding Efficiency Vermont.

You may know that BioTek Instruments, Inc., headquartered in Winooski, VT, USA, is a worldwide leader in the design, manufacture, and distribution of innovative life science instrumentation. We have 280 Vermont employees and contribute in many ways to the economy of Vermont, as well as many other initiatives which make our state a better place. Over the last 25 years, BioTek has made numerous investments in energy efficiency, including improvements to our existing building and operations and a building expansion with additional investment in energy efficient materials, LED lighting system and higher efficiency machinery. At this point, we have made all of the investments in energy conservation that make reasonable sense. In addition, we have supported renewable energy by investing over \$2,000,000 towards two solar facilities located in Vermont. Like many others, we have worked through the opportunities for energy efficiency and made investments that were impactful and sound. Further, we are generating more in solar credits than we are consuming in electric cost. So, at this point, there is absolutely no economic value that Efficiency Vermont can provide to BioTek.

It is time for the Energy Efficiency charge to be eliminated. Our annual charge of over \$13,000 that we pay on our electric bill, despite the fact that we now completely offset 100% of our electrical costs through our solar credits, would be better invested in improving our manufacturing efficiency, developing new products or investing in workforce development. 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.

In addition to the concerns I have for my business, taxes like this impact everyone in Vermont, from major impacts to the manufacturing sector to increasing the cost of living in Vermont for all of our employees. Vermont cannot have over \$90,000,000 of the Vermont economy be directed to Efficiency Vermont. Especially since Efficiency Vermont's budget



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has the disappointingly small amount of 55% making it back to business and residential incentives and, only if participants put forth an additional roughly \$35,000,000 from their own pocket, as was done in 2016. Times have changed with the state's electric energy landscape becoming significantly more carbon free and with the New England greenhouse gas emissions declining dramatically over the last 10 years. It is time to recognize this positive change for our environment and eliminate the efficiency charge which is no longer a good investment for Vermonters.

I appreciate you taking a fresh look at how best to achieve a clean, energy-efficient future in the most cost-effective way. We believe that after nearly 20 years of offering efficiency services, Efficiency Vermont has run its course.

Sincerely,



Briar Alpert
President & CEO

cc: June E. Tierney, Commissioner
Department of Public Service