

## Whitney, Judith

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**From:** Paul Zabriskie <paulz@capstonevt.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 02, 2017 2:43 PM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk  
**Subject:** EEU 2016-03, 2016-2017 Demand Resources Plan Proceeding Reply Comments on Budget Recommendations  
**Attachments:** EEU 2016-03 Reply Comments Capstone.pdf

Dear Ms. Whitney,

Attached please find comments from Capstone Community Action and the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program operators.

Warm regards,

Paul Z.

**Paul Zabriskie**

**Weatherization Director**  
**Capstone Community Action**  
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May 31, 2017

Weatherization Program

Ms. Judith C. Whitney  
Clerk of the Board  
Vermont Public Service Board  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: EEU 2016-03, 2016-2017 Demand Resources Plan Proceeding  
Reply Comments on Budget Recommendations

Dear Ms. Whitney,

On behalf of the operators of the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program, including Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA), Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO), Community Action of Southwestern Vermont (BROC), and the Northeast Employment and Training Organization (NETO), Capstone Community Action offers the following comments on the proposed budget recommendations for the energy efficiency utilities.

We request that the Public Service Board reject the recommendations to cut funding for the Vermont Energy Efficiency Utilities (EEU). Instead of a reduction in investments for energy efficiency, the Board should increase the budgets over the next three years in line with the existing EEU planning forecasts.

The Vermont Weatherization operators conduct comprehensive energy audits and complete roughly 1,000 residential energy retrofits each year for income eligible households. As part of our services we partner with the EEUs to deliver electrical and thermal energy saving measures to our participants. We have a long history of cost effective performance. The average household served in 2016 will see a reduction in annual energy costs of \$191.29 as a result of our contracts with Efficiency Vermont. Similarly, households served in 2015 saw an average reduction of \$200.33 in annual energy costs. These financial savings protect vulnerable Vermonters by making more of their resources available to pay for necessities like food, housing, prescriptions, transportation and childcare.

There are also numerous non-energy benefits generated by Efficiency Vermont's investments, including improved indoor air quality, enhanced comfort, safer lighting, and carbon dioxide emissions reductions associated with reduced use of fossil fuels.

We challenge the notion that the efficiency charge on ratepayer's bills reduces affordability in Vermont. Efficiency investments have helped keep Vermonters electric bills lower and more stable than many of the surrounding states. Thousands of low income Vermonters have benefited directly from efficiency investments in the past, but there is still much work to be done. We recommend increasing low-income efficiency budgets to increase the number of vulnerable Vermonters served.

Climate change is regressive. Solutions to climate change don't have to be. Investment in efficiency is our most cost effective solution to transition our infrastructure to be more sustainable and meet the 90% renewable by 2050 goals. We support a clean energy future and call on the Board to increase, rather than decrease, Vermont's EEU investments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,



Paul Zabriskie  
Weatherization Program Director

cc: SEVCA  
CVOEO  
BROC  
NETO

