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June 19, 2023

Ms. Holly Anderson, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Post Office Drawer 20
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2701

Re: **Case No. 22-2954-PET** – Jane Catton, Age Well comments on equity and electric system benefits within Efficiency Vermont’s 2024-2026 Demand Resources Plan Update Proposal

Dear Clerk Anderson,

We understand that issues of electric system benefits are being discussed in this proceeding, and are writing to offer our perspective. Age Well has a long history of working in service to the aging population of Northwestern Vermont.

While we agree that it is important for Efficiency Vermont to place a continued focus on delivering electric systems benefits, we are concerned that placing an outsized and exclusive focus on this issue will undermine Efficiency Vermont’s ability to continue meeting the needs of the Vermonters we serve. In our experience, these customers face many barriers to participating in efficiency programs. It takes a long-term investment of resources, including significant time, support, and changes to program design - alongside increased monetary incentives - to address these barriers. These resource investments from Efficiency Vermont may not yield large electric savings, but they are critical to advancing Vermont’s equity goals and ensuring that everyone who pays the Energy Efficiency Charge has the opportunity to benefit from efficiency programs.

Age Well has partnered with Efficiency Vermont to increase access to their services for aging adults by:

- Distributing outreach and educational materials at community & wellness events.
- Promoting Efficiency Vermont services in our monthly newsletter, distributed to 5,000 subscribers.
- Reviewing and providing feedback on their outreach materials and programs to ensure they are accessible to aging adults.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in this proceeding, and will be happy to provide further information if needed.

Sincerely,

Jane Catton, BScN, MSOL, RN, NE-BC
Chief Executive Officer