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June 30, 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** – Foodworks comments on equity and electric system benefits within Efficiency Vermont’s 2024-2026 Demand Resources Plan Update Proposal

Dear Clerk Anderson,

We are writing to offer comments on the above proceeding, specific to tension between equity investments and electric systems benefits, as well as our ongoing partnership with Efficiency Vermont. Foodworks is a program of Groundworks Collaborative in Brattleboro, and our team works every day to provide services and support to the most vulnerable residents of our community. We have worked very closely with Efficiency Vermont over the last two years and have helped their team to connect with our clients, who are often non-native English speakers, renters, and members of other historically marginalized populations.

While we agree that electric systems benefits are important, we are concerned that making this the most critical priority for Efficiency Vermont will make it hard for them to continue investing resources in serving our clients. It takes significant time, energy, and financial commitment to build trust with marginalized communities, and to design and adapt services that are accessible to them. We understand that these resource investments from Efficiency Vermont may not yield large electric savings, but it is also essential that everyone who pays the Energy Efficiency Charge has the opportunity to access Efficiency Vermont’s programs. There is real progress being made in Brattleboro through our partnership, and we would like to see that good work continue.

basic needs met with dignity

GroundworksVT.org | 141 Canal Street | PO Box 370, Brattleboro, VT 05302 | 802.490.2412



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

Sincerely,

Andrew Courtney
Director of Foodworks