



Building Performance Professionals
Association of Vermont

BPPA-VT

Vermont's Authorities on Energy Efficiency

PO Box 8125, Brattleboro, VT 05304 • 802-552-4677 • www.BPPA-VT.org

To: Senate Committee on Finance

From: (BPPA-VT) Building Performance Professionals Association of Vermont

RE: H.520, An Act Relating To Reducing Energy Costs And Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Date: April 8, 2013

Dear Committee,

This letter is an appeal on the part of Vermont's building performance professionals to add meaningful funding to H.520 as outlined and recommended in the Thermal Efficiency Task Force report released to the legislature in January of this year.

In a year that we all recognize presents significant fiscal challenges, it is important to recognize also that improving the thermal energy efficiency of Vermont's building stock, with a direct benefit-to-cost ratio of 2.05 to 1, offers among the best returns on investment that we can achieve for our state. This focused investment will not only result in substantial levels of financial return, but Vermonters will realize benefits across an amazingly wide range of additional critical areas.

Funding our commitment to achieve the goals set forth in legislative Act 92; 10 V.S.A. § 581 (25% efficiency improvement of 80,000 homes by 2020) will:

- Reduce Vermont's negative impact on climate
- Help keep hundreds of millions of dollars from leaving the state each year
- Help stabilize our contractor industry and create hundreds of new jobs
- Help stabilize our housing market: improve values, decrease costs for both owners and renters
- Reduce demand for LIHEAP funding
- Allow more Vermonters to live more safely, healthfully and comfortably

These benefits, when considered together, add up to so much more than the sum of their component parts and on scale can have as much positive societal impact as significant improvements in healthcare and education. Thermal efficiency improvements are, in their most fundamental sense, infrastructure improvements. In Vermont our need for heat is so essential that improving the energy efficiency of our homes is ultimately no less important than improving and maintaining our roads, bridges and schools.

How long shall we wait to stop this incredible loss of heat from our homes and dollars from our economy? How much longer will we wait to address the damage this is doing to our environment? The sooner we begin to tackle this issue, the sooner we will begin to realize the full range of benefits from this investment. This effort will never become less expensive or more manageable. The Task Force has provided clear recommendations on how to move forward. What we need now is the political will to face this unavoidable challenge and take the necessary action.

Thank you,

Building Performance Professionals Association of Vermont, Board of Directors

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Joe Foss, All Seasons Urethane Foam
Robert Rueter, Auditor, Southeastern Vermont Community Action
Russ Flanigan, Energy Services Director, Perkins Smith Design Build
Chip Patullo, Above-N-Beyond Energy
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John Quinney, General Manager, Energy Co-op of Vermont
Harald Schmidtke, Weatherization Director, Southeastern Vermont Community Action
Brian Carpenter, Carpenter Home Systems
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Keith Abbott, Thermal House
Bruce Merritt, Build Basic Green
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