



Vermont House and Senate Appropriations Committee

I am happy to write this letter of support as a board member for NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, as they continue to expand services, especially for our most disenfranchised citizens who struggle to improve their lives. In my opinion, providing an annual funding stream of \$250,000 in state appropriations for the continuation of this unique statewide expansion of the “HEAT Squad Program” will enhance neighborhood outreach helping homeowners save money on energy bills. In addition, this assistance will increase the number of safer/healthier homes and improve comfort, all while reducing our carbon footprint to help save our environment for generations to come.

I am excited about keeping revenue local, in support of local contractors and creating local jobs that will enhance the local economy. NeighborWorks is critical to the collaborative efforts underway in Rutland and across our great state, particularly serving Addison, Rutland, Bennington, Windham and Windsor counties. This program is open to all income levels and we believe it is vital for the middle and lower incomes (60% of HEAT Squad customers) bearing the highest energy burden. NeighborWorks boasts a high level of customer service in education, a low cost energy audit, objective advice and referrals to trusted contractors, in-house lending options and access to state rebates, and continual help from the beginning to the end.

There is no other program like HEAT Squad in Vermont! So, if you didn't know, HEAT Squad helps with all aspects of energy efficiency, such as lighting, appliances, air leakage, insulation, heating equipment, heat pump technology, solar, hot water systems and building improvements.

NeighborWorks has had a long history of success as a community agency, serving innumerable families at an exceptional level. We wholeheartedly support their strategy to expand their HEAT Squad Program services throughout Vermont. We appreciate your interest and assistance in this exciting opportunity.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Scott A. Tucker

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