

Full Statement of Bob Amelang on 2/13/2018 6 PM Hearing in Montpelier

I request that the Governor and state legislators support the **HEAT Squad program** to maintain and expand its programs to the rest of Vermont. I request state appropriation of \$250,000 per year for five years to support for this venture.

These requested new state annual appropriations will provide value to Vermonters well beyond the state funds allocated, providing funds over five years that will give Vermonters energy savings for decades.

The HEAT Squad has an established track record of reducing those energy costs with targeted home improvements. Unlike firms that sell windows, heating equipment and insulation, the HEAT Squad does testing and inspection work coupled with software assisted analysis, followed by thorough explanations for the customer, to ensure that customers maximize energy savings per dollar invested. HEAT Squad programs facilitate work done by numerous Vermont contractors performing weatherization and other energy related services. Besides economic benefits, saving energy is almost always more economical than installing clean renewable energy generation sources, to address pollution and climate change concerns.

Current HEAT Squad customers, the majority of whom are earning less than 120% of area median income, are collectively saving \$1.25 Million annually. The HEAT Squad has created more than 62 jobs. The requested state funds will create 16 more jobs.

I am a member of the NW Board of Directors and a retired CVPS/GMP engineer. My experience relevant to the HEAT Squad is a career in the electric utility sector that included heating energy conservation analysis. I have experience with three homes that had HEAT Squad energy audits and subsequent weatherization upgrades. Also, many people have told me that they were very satisfied with the work by the HEAT Squad program.

Conversely, a Vermonter from an area not served by the HEAT Squad told me he had a very unfavorable experience from a slipshod energy audit performed by an insulation contractor whose only goal was to sell insulation services.

I testified against a Carbon Pricing study before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife last December. I add now to that testimony saying that if the state wants to reduce carbon emissions, the best investment would be this one for the HEAT Squad.

My CVPS experience included work with the team that managed the utility energy conservation programs that predated Efficiency VT. A key takeaway from that experience is that cost effective energy conservation requires (1) effective communications so that customers understand the economics of energy cost saving benefits and upgrade costs (including financial incentives), (2) good information on energy use before and after improvements, (3) qualified contractors (or skilled homeowners in some cases) and (4) recommendations made to maximize energy savings per dollar invested, not to maximize sales of energy contractors. In my opinion, the HEAT Squad is unique in that their programs address all four requirements.