

**From:** Theresa Utton [TUTTON@leg.state.vt.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 11:25 AM  
**To:** Theresa Utton  
**Subject:** FW: Budget testimony

**From:** Ken Fredette  
**Date:** February 25, 2019 at 9:18:29 PM EST  
**To:** Peter Fagan  
**Subject:** Budget testimony

Hi Peter,

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed budget tonight. I suppose I really ought to provide written testimony, but have always worked with rough notes over the years when testifying on education issues or presenting school budgets at Town Meeting.

Anyway, in the interest of developing a new habit, here is what I think I said:

Hi...I'm Ken Fredette from Wallingford. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight, especially for coming out on such a blustery night. But a perfect night for talking about Weatherization.

My wife and I spent part of our life raising our family in an old farmhouse; I could tell the outside temperature without getting out of bed by placing my hand on the wall. The oil company loved me.

We have moved on from that. We were able to build a super efficient home...the other end of the pendulum swing. But there are many Vermonters who don't have that opportunity, especially some of our most vulnerable citizens: the elderly.

Governor Scott's Climate Action Commission has made two recommendations, among others: one being to double low-income Weatherization and the other to increase low-to moderate-income by 25%. Yet \$600,000 has been redirected from Weatherization funding.

And yes, I understand that sending money to LIHEAP can leverage federal dollars, and that there are certain machinations in the budget process. And I also understand that \$500,000 has been put back into the fund, but that is one-time money and still leaves the fund \$100,000 short of current. I feel it's hard to square a \$100,000 reduction with a recommendation to more than double support.

Battening down buildings that are hemorrhaging heat into the atmosphere benefits just about everybody: tenants and landlords, homeowners, and the environment...so just about everybody. Maybe not the oil companies, but they'll be all right.

There is a good return on investment with Weatherization, and some that might not be measurable, like comfort of our elders, so I hope you will support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

I think that's pretty close.

Thank you for your service.

Ken