

From: Perry Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:30 PM
To: Theresa Utton
Subject: Testimony for Heat Squad

Dear Theresa,

I am writing these notes to show my support of the Heat Squad. I had intended to attend the Public Hearing in St. Johnsbury tonight but bad road conditions and blowing snow kept me from making the trip.

As someone who has been involved in home construction for 30 years, I've seen first hand the value on an energy audit. Many people seem to just seem to accept that their houses will be drafty and poorly insulated and don't know that there are affordable solutions that can reduce their heating bills and make their homes more comfortable to live in. Many contractors who pride themselves in good craftsmanship have been humbled by the results of a blower door test or infrared camera analysis.

I believe that the Heat Squad's request for \$1.25 million in funding over the next 5 years is well worth the money for the following reasons:

- The payback of an energy audit is enormous. Often times the energy saved can pay for the price of improvements in as little as a couple of years. Reducing energy usage saves money, reduces Vermont's dependence on oil & gas, and is good for the environment.
- The Heat Squad audits also identifies home safety issues as they include evaluation of furnaces, home appliances (Combustion Appliance testing and Carbon Monoxide).
- The Heat Squad also helps manage the homeowner's improvement project. They can recommend insulation and weatherization techniques, provide estimated costs and payback periods and provide recommendations of qualified local contractors. Because the Heat Squad stays involved with the homeowners throughout the project, they receive feedback from the homeowners and can maintain a list of contractors who can do quality work for a reasonable price.

If you spread out the \$1.25 million over 5 years, this works out to \$0.40 per year for each Vermont Resident; a small price to pay for expanding Heat Squad's services to the whole State of Vermont.

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