

From: Theresa Utton [TUTTON@leg.state.vt.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 11:06 AM
To: Theresa Utton
Subject: FW: Testimony

From: Maureen McGuire
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 6:55 PM
To: Theresa Utton <TUTTON@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Testimony

Good Evening Theresa,

It was my intent to attend the hearing in Morrisville today to offer my testimony in support of HEAT Squad being considered for the \$1.25 million in one time money. However, the wild and blustery weather forced me to stay home. I'm going to now send you a record of what I had prepared to present to the Legislators.

"Thank you for this Opportunity

My name is Maureen McGuire, I am a widow who will soon be 70 years old, living alone in Newport Center in Orleans County. I've long been interested in energy conservation and believe the scientific information alerting us of the need to be conserving of our precious resources. I am motivated to do my part to reduce dependency on fossil fuels that can also result in saving money on energy bills.

I am advocating that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees seriously consider and grant HEAT Squad's request for \$1.25 million in one time money in order that they can expand services to all Vermonters. I'll now describe my direct connection to this agency that permits me to support such a request.

I've had the good fortune to attend several presentations that the dynamic Craftsbury Energy Committee provides to the public. It is as a result of these meetings as well as newspaper articles that I learned of the HEAT Squad and "Neighbor Works of Western Vermont". Last spring while attending one of the Craftsbury meetings, I met Melanie Paskevich (Program Manager). I learned that "Neighbor Works of Western Vermont" was actively planning to expand services to the North East Kingdom. I was added to the 'wait list' to obtain an energy audit that would include recommendations to improve my home to meet conservation goals. It did take some extra time while the office in Lyndonville was set up and suitable staff was hired and had extra training...I firmly believe that 'good things come to those who wait'!

On Monday morning, July 9, 2018, Sally Ayers (Energy Auditor and Advisor) and her colleague, Corey, came to my home for the awaited audit. Prior to their arrival, I had received information via emails and phone calls to be sure to maximize their visit. I feel I was well prepared by the whole "Neighbor Works of Western Vermont" team. Sally and Corey were personable, respectful, professional, knowledgeable and flexible! They worked well as a team. They answered all of the questions I had (at the time and subsequently) and provided written documentation with specific recommendations on the same day. These written materials are 'user friendly'. Sally carefully checked appliances that may have been eligible

for replacement through Efficiency Vermont. She was able to get me replacement light bulbs in order to have more LED lights in my home.

In my opinion, this comprehensive customer service has been excellent! HEAT Squad offers meaningful education, low cost energy audits, in-house lending options as well as access to state rebates. I believe this impressively organized and well established service deserves the requested funding in order to be available to all Vermonters.

Thank you."

I intended to offer a copy of my energy audit and to show the written materials that I've received from HEAT Squad to the Legislators had I been able to meet with them in person.

Thank you Theresa for passing on my humble and heartfelt statement.

Sincerely,
Maureen A. McGuire