

## S.109

### Senate Natural Resources & Energy

#### Workforce Development Testimony

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1. Richard Faesy
  - a. Principal at Energy Future Group in Hinesburg
  - b. Board secretary at Building Performance Professionals Association
  - c. Engaged participant in Vermont's energy efficiency ecosystem for 35 years
  - d. Trained many builders, contractors, appraisers, Realtors, lenders and others
2. Main points:
  - a. Workforce development is a critical element towards a successful weatherization program
  - b. Task Efficiency Vermont with leading this initiative
  - c. \$2 million as a good down payment towards this effort
  - d. Long-term, sustained weatherization program funding (in order to drive consumer demand) is necessary if we want to entice workers, businesses and professionals into our industry
3. Workforce development is critical
  - a. If we are going to succeed at weatherizing 120,000 homes over the next 10 years, we will need 3-5 times as many weatherization contractors as we currently have
  - b. They will *all* need at least some basic building science knowledge to effectively do their jobs
  - c. We will need to build and sustain a workforce at all levels, from entry-level out of high school, trade schools, career programs, business management and pulling in existing builders and contractors
  - d. We have expert building science and weatherization trainers in Vermont we should utilize in these efforts
4. Efficiency Vermont is the right entity to lead the workforce initiative
  - a. Experience with Act 62
  - b. Record of delivery of past trainings, weatherization jobs and studies
  - c. Relationships with contractors and workforce players
    - i. EEN
    - ii. The "Workforce Collaborative"
  - d. They would be best positioned to lead the Weatherization Workforce Group to develop the plan by October
  - e. While the Dept. of Labor should be part of the Weatherization Workforce Group, it makes the most sense for Efficiency Vermont to lead the effort
  - f. Changes to S.109
    - i. Name Efficiency Vermont as leading the Wx Workforce Group
    - ii. Name the Dept. of Labor as a member, not the lead of the Wx Workforce Group
    - iii. Name the "Weatherization Collaborative" as a member of the Wx Workforce Group
5. \$2 million budget
  - a. \$2 million budget is a good place to start
  - b. Develop a plan, identify trainers, develop appropriate training curriculum
    - i. Deliver by October 1, 2021

- c. Training development then implementation follows
  - d. Recommend funding NeighborWorks with separate funding to enable the full \$2 million to be allocated to workforce development
    - i. The \$2 million that had been designated for PAYS could be allocated to NWWVT and potentially SEMP and CEDF
    - ii. PAYS is now funded through VHFA's \$9 million allocation
6. Sustained Funding
- a. Weatherizing 120,000 LMI Vermont homes is going to take a long-term, sustained and committed effort
  - b. \$25 million seems like a lot of money, but it's really just a down payment to help us build the foundation for what's going to need to be sustained future funding
  - c. \$2 million is a great down-payment for the necessary workforce development component of this effort
7. Thank you for the opportunity to testify
- a. We would be glad to answer any questions