

Dear Chair Champion and Senators Hashim, Laroque Gulick, Weeks and Williams, thanks very much for the opportunity to testify on H.871, an act relating to the dev. of an updated state aid to school construction program. Yesterday you asked if there were specific changes EEI suggests for the bill. Please find those suggested additions below. As you heard yesterday, energy performance contracting plays a key role in school construction in Vermont, especially regarding infrastructure improvements. EEI and energy savings companies ensure that federal and state grants and rebates are optimized by schools to help with upfront and longterm improvement costs. The language is intended to give the Facilities Master Planning program and the Working Group tools to help SUs utilize the best strategy for infrastructure improvements and to maximize energy savings before renovations take place. This will help the state aid school construction program attain the best value for state dollars.

H 871 Requested Additions

- Page (3) **Add**

Section 1 sec. (3) minimum requirements for master plan shall include:

(H) Energy Audit with long term planning for reduction of CO2 & Energy Use

- Page (4) Section (3)

Prequalified Architecture, Engineers, & **Energy Service Companies**

“On or before October 15, 2024, the Agency of Education shall coordinate 6 with the Department of Buildings and General Services to develop 7 prequalification criteria for architecture, engineering, & **energy service companies** firms specializing in kindergarten through grade 12 school design, construction, & **energy auditing**.”

- Page (6) under Sec. (C) Eligibility Criteria

(vi) a requirement for supervisory unions to perform an energy audit on a building that would evaluate the energy use and provide recommendations and costs that reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions including a long-term plan for moving off of fossil fuels.

(vii) a requirement for schools to analyze state and federal grant/rebate opportunities and to determine the viability in regards to the needs of the school

- Page (7-8)

Policy areas to consider for incentive include:

(x) Energy Use Index and Fuel Consumption

- Page (11) Add energy performance contractors to list of who the Working Group should consult with