

Testimony re Misc. Energy Bill

1. We want to ensure that the Committee is aware that the Commission has an investigation into the improvement of Energy Efficiency and Tier 3 programs. (Case No. 25-1094-INV)
 - a. This investigation has a broad scope and BED has specifically raised the issues regarding TEPF in that proceeding.
 - b. Understand that it's the legislature's prerogative to direct policy, will note that it's not typical for the legislature to direct policy when the Commission has an active proceeding on that policy.

2. We also wish to provide a tweak to Section 1(a) of the bill.

Notwithstanding any provision of law or order of the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to the contrary, ~~the PUC shall authorize~~ an entity appointed under 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(A) that is also a retail electricity provider for the calendar years 2027–2029 ~~to may~~ spend any amounts the entity has available to it through annually budgeted thermal energy and process fuel funds and carryforward thermal energy and process fuel funds from prior periods on programs, measures, and services that reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions in the thermal energy or transportation sector regardless of the preexisting fuel source of the customer.

The way the language is written, it removes flexibility for both the Commission and Burlington Electric. The tweak to the language makes clear that BED has the authority to propose, and the PUC has the authority to approve, an expanded use of TEPF funds.