

Dear Chair James and Committee Members,

We write to again urge you to pass S.219, the energy navigation study bill. We listened carefully to your committee discussion last week and offer these additional comments:

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- S.219
- **calls for a study**
- of home energy coaching programs in Vermont and elsewhere and the design of a program that works for Vermont.
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- There are several reasons
- **why a study makes sense now:**
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- Despite and perhaps because there are so many different energy programs,
- **Vermonters are confused and overwhelmed**
- by the choices.
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- The different energy programs across the State have
- **varied approaches and results.**
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- **No one is responsible**
- for overseeing and evaluating what is going on across the many programs and how best to serve Vermonters.
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- The
- **PSD has testified in favor**
- of the bill. Alek Antczak stated that the study called for in this bill will be complimentary to and build upon a review of all energy programs that the PSD is just beginning, enabling a more detailed analysis related to home energy coaching.
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- We support a
- **critical review of the CEAC Energy Navigator program**
- along with all the other home energy programming.

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  - Our experience and experience from other states indicates that
  - **community-based programming provides importantly better results,**
  - but we welcome the review.
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- We have heard from
- **communities across Vermont**
- that see a need for energy navigator-like programming. These include towns in the
- **Upper Valley area.**
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  - These
  - **communities will need support**
  - in terms of training, support, infrastructure, etc. CEAC is willing to share all that we've learned but there are real limits to what we can do as a small nonprofit. These programs cannot be done entirely by volunteers and will require some funding and infrastructure
  - to be successful.
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An important part of CEAC's mission is to **reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**. So, we are compelled to note that when looked at through the lens of GHG pollution, the results from Vermont's current home energy programs are **much too low**. In order to meaningfully contribute to reaching the goals of Vermont's Climate Action Plan, we need to be reaching many, many more Vermont residents, and to find ways to expand our efforts beyond weatherization to fuel switching.

Please add these comments to the public record for your committee's consideration of S.219.

**Thank you for your work** on this important issue. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Steve Maier  
On behalf of CEAC and Energy Navigators