

PUBLIC COMMENT to
ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

3/29, 2018

Stephen Cowell, President, E4TheFuture

Members of the EEAC:

My hope is that my comments will provide constructive and useful feedback.

Bio/Background

I serve on the Northeast Energy Efficiency Council steering committee as well as being president of E4TheFuture, Inc. in Framingham. For 31 years I was chairman and CEO of Conservation Services Group (CSG). E4TheFuture continues CSG's nonprofit policy focus and promotes residential clean energy and sustainable resource solutions to advance climate protection and economic fairness.

I will be providing comments on behalf of E4TheFuture and Northeast Energy Efficiency Council as it relates to expanded incorporation of measures and savings on a fuel neutral basis, consistent with H1724 which we filed and has been reported to the Committee on Steering and Policy as well as consistent with several parts of Governor Baker's proposed Bond Bill and with recommendations from this EEAC. I will also provide some comments on the recent ruling by the Cannabis Commission relative to energy use in this soon to be expanding industry.

Comments on Three Year Plan

Specifically:

1. Incorporate the full range of energy technologies that provide cost effective benefits to customers and the energy system as a whole. This would remove any unnecessary and unintended barriers to including energy technologies such as renewables, storage, EVs and high efficiency heating and cooling equipment as well as demand response and peak reduction services and smart devices. Many of these technologies were undeveloped when the Green Communities Act was created. This is fully consistent with the Councilor Draft Recommendations.

2. Incorporate the full range of economic benefits and environmental benefits when performing Cost Effectiveness evaluation.

3. While H1724 would remove any question or uncertainty over the legal ability to carry out these recommendations, we believe that there could and should be a path to move forward with the recommendations by the EEAC in this area and have PA plans submitted and approved to begin implementing some of these expanded approaches, prior to 1724 passing. The Department of Public Utilities should have the ability to review and approve these plans based on the Supreme Court ruling in the GWSA that the laws in areas related to DPU jurisdiction can be and should be enacted.

4. E4TheFuture stands ready and willing to work with all parties to help support expanded and more effective strategies going forward. We are not done, we are just beginning and these issues impact every state and every community in the country. Massachusetts can continue to be the leader and develop replicable models and strategies.

On the Issue of the Cannabis Industry:

1. Yesterday, the Cannabis Commission published rules that incorporated lighting efficiency standards and energy use disclosure. This is a positive step in the start up of an industry that is extremely energy intensive as the state of Colorado is discovering.

2. Technical Standards and best practice in the industry has not been fully developed along the lines of efficient energy use.

3. E4 proposes that the EEAC, PA's, DOER and MassCEC work together and in collaboration with the industry and with other states that have legalized cannabis to develop state of the art technical strategies and program assistance to implement those standards. This would include incentives for adopting the current requirements and incentives to adopt more advanced technical strategies as these are developed.