Candidate Statement: Mary Wambui

Candidate for Re-Election: Co-Chair, EEAC Equity Working Group

Rooted in Community, Guided by Lived Experience

My work on the EEAC is shaped by the realities of renters, immigrants, working families, and Gateway Cities. I grew up in communities where basic services are unevenly delivered, and today I live in Lowell, where energy burden remains among the highest in the Commonwealth.

Professionally, I manage an affordable housing portfolio where 80% of residents are below 60% of AMI, including 50% below 30% of AMI, and many in permanent supportive housing who were formerly homeless. Supporting these households requires daily coordination, trust-building, and problem-solving. This is the lens through which I bridge policy and practice: I understand what programs look like on the ground, in real buildings, with real people who need them to work.

Turning Insight Into Action

My leadership has focused on making equity measurable and enforceable.

- **Equity PIM:** I helped shape the mechanism that ties utility profits to serving income-eligible households and communities left behind by earlier implementation of Mass Save.
- **Workforce equity:** I supported efforts that expand opportunities for Black, Brown, immigrant, and local workers.
- **Operational fluency:** I bring a deep understanding of building conditions, resident needs, and project timelines to ensure programs deliver real results.

A Trusted Source in a Moment of Confusion

As new models and legislation emerge, Mass Save has become the subject of confusion and misinformation. I have become a go-to source for grounding debates in facts and helping communities understand what is truly at stake. I regularly clarify the facts about rates, using public data to show that 91% of energy bill rate growth is driven by infrastructure, supply, and transmission—not by energy efficiency. Keeping discussions anchored in verifiable facts ensures policy focuses on the true drivers of rising bills. My grassroots relationships—built through multilingual outreach, community meetings, and direct engagement with renters and advocates—allow me to translate complex policy into clear, accessible information.

A Vision for the Next Term

- **Protect the $1.9 billion equity budget** so it reaches the households with the highest need.
- **Advance distributive justice** for renters, income-eligible households, language-isolated customers, and Gateway Cities.

- **Scale proven models like CVEO**, which reduce total energy bills by 59%.
- **Ensure reforms target the real drivers of rate growth**, while preserving and transforming Mass Save as the Commonwealth's most accountable equity tool.
- **Improve transparency** by distinguishing between clearing backlogs and making new progress.
- **Center outcomes over spending**, with clear reporting on affordability impacts.

Why I Continue This Work

I carry the voice of the shanties of Nairobi and the renters of Lowell. My leadership is grounded in people: listening, translating, connecting, and ensuring that every household can access the benefits they pay for. As the future of our energy programs is debated, I am emerging as a **protector of equity, affordability, and truth**—bringing data, community insight, and lived experience together in one frame. I ask for your vote so we can continue building the higher ground for justice—together.