To EEAC Equity Working Group,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Equity Working Group. I am the Energy Democracy Organizer with GreenRoots and a trusted resource for community members in Chelsea and East Boston. In the past year, I have worked with over 400 community members, 97% of whom are monolingual Spanish speakers, through their energy challenges. The majority of these residents are low income, face challenges engaging with energy efficiency programs, utilities, and housing stock in historically red-lined communities.

I have helped residents with a range of energy burdens and have worked alongside them to implement solutions that do not leave communities behind. I have worked with implementing Mass Save programs to place insulation in homes that have been historically redlined by pairing with City programs to first replace old wiring. I have partnered with emerging energy meter companies and to work with community leaders to install 6 energy monitors in their homes to bring empowerment to their energy usage. I recently hosted an Energy Resources Fair in Chelsea to bring together all of the significant energy stakeholders to provide immediate resources, including Mass Save resources, to community members. There were 108 community members present and languages spoken with interpretation included Amharic, Arabic, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

Furthermore, I have deeply engaged with the Department of Public Utilities in the Energy Burden Working Groups, beginning with our testimony at Docket 24-15. Through these proceedings, and conversations directly with utilities, the DPU, NCLC, CAP agencies, and the Attorney General's Office, I have worked to explicate the experiences of structural barriers that predominate in energy work. I have uplifted community voices and experiences that have come to bear in further recommendations. I continue to describe these experiences, barriers and solutions in regular meetings with the AGO's Energy & Ratepayer Advocacy (ERA) Division.

As an organization, GreenRoots works alongside two environmental justice communities that are home to large populations of low-income and immigrant residents who have limited English proficiency (LEP) – among the highest rates in the state. As gateway communities, many of our residents are undocumented immigrants; and 79% identify as people of color. In East Boston, 65% identify as people of color. This energy work begins with deep and meaningful engagement with our communities. We believe that continuing to engage in spaces such as the Equity Working Group will allow us to continue to work towards reducing significant energy burdens, and ultimately towards greater energy equity.

Sincerely,
Kiera Alventosa
Energy Democracy Organizer

GreenRoots • RaicesVerdes
90 Everett Avenue, Suite 10, Chelsea, MA 02150
617.466.3076 • https://www.greenrootsej.org/