

I am writing to express my support for major expansion of energy efficiency programs. Not only does the Commonwealth have a statutory obligation to capture all cost-effective efficiency and demand reduction measures, it makes economic sense.

The C&I programs are an area where large gains can be made in energy savings. While this is true across the sector, I would like to see particular attention devoted to municipalities as customers. Initiatives for municipalities to switch to efficient lighting is likely the easiest step. Offering comprehensive energy audits to these larger energy consumers, and helping them to think systematically about their energy use, could help the state achieve its GWSA goals and create jobs at the same time. I believe that many municipalities need more guidance, education and support before they will consider becoming "Green Communities." They would benefit from better access to information about cost-saving steps they can take incrementally, and more supportive programs tailored to their needs.

On the residential side, attention should be paid to how renters are able to take advantage of the programs to make sure that all residential customers can benefit from the cost savings available.

I would also like to join in the call for a complete, accurate and accessible database so that program successes, shortcomings and opportunities for greater savings are available to inform decision-making.

Efficiency is the cheapest way to save consumers money, create jobs, reduce emissions, and avoid environmentally destructive energy infrastructure projects across the Commonwealth.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of expanding these programs.

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