Outlook

concern re Straw Proposal #3

From Lori Kenschaft <electrifyarlington@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date Mon 10/19/2026 6:20 PM
To MA-EEAC (ENE) <MA-EEAC@mass.gov>
Cc tfox <tfox@town.arlington.ma.us>

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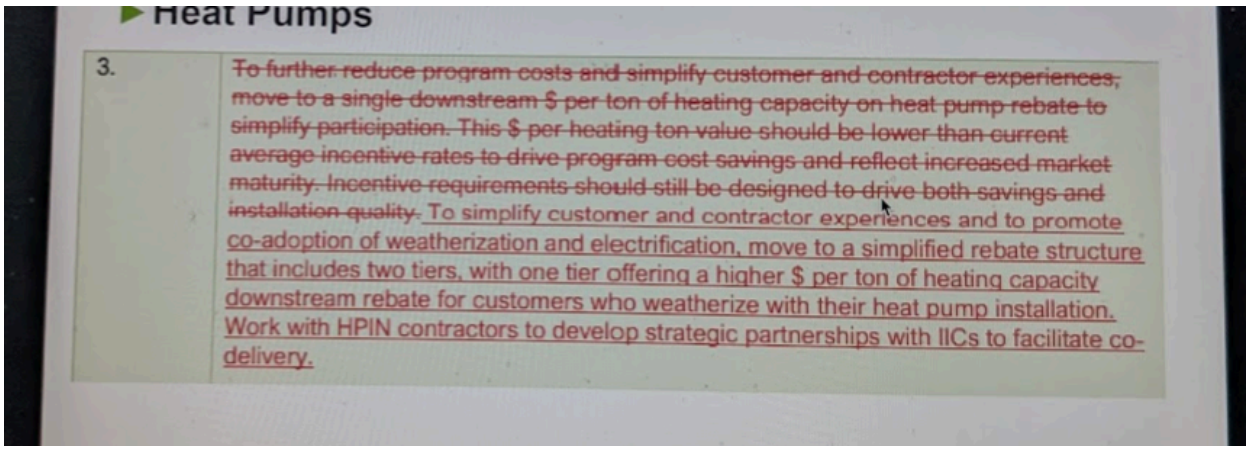
Dear EEAC,

I have coordinated the Electrify Arlington program for the Town of Arlington for four years. I was Arlington's Energy Advocate, but we have decided to expand our capacity by having two people doing CFP work, so we have hired a new Energy Advocate to focus on in-person outreach while I continue to do strategy, public education, volunteer coordination, etc.

I attended the EEAC workshop on October 15, and I would like to share a concern regarding Straw Proposal #3.



The wording of this straw proposal seems to suggest that customers who weatherized before their heat pump installation, rather than "with" their heat pump installation, may be offered a lower rebate.

Many people have already used Mass Save to weatherize their homes. I suspect it would offend their sense of fairness if they were offered a lower heat pump rebate because they were good citizens and weatherized their homes sometime in the past, rather than delaying until they were ready to install heat pumps.

During the meeting, Jo Ann Bodemer made a comment about "there has always been an exemption," which I think may have been intended to address this issue. Mass Save policies constantly change, though, so I've learned to make no assumptions that previous policies will continue in the future. Also, I think it would not be helpful to describe people who previously participated in Mass Save's flagship program as needing an "exemption" from Mass Save's new policies.

I also think it would be helpful to define "with." There are some situations when it is best to install weatherization shortly after installing a heat pump system — sometimes for scheduling reasons and sometimes for functional

reasons (e.g., install ductwork and then insulate an attic). I've been told that Mass Save currently offers a six month "grace period" for weatherization that makes a home eligible for the whole-home HP rebate, which seems long to me.

I would therefore like to suggest something along the lines of this wording:

"... includes two tiers, with one tier offering a higher $ per ton of heating capacity downstream rebate for customers whose home is weatherized prior to a heat pump installation or who complete weatherization within two months after a heat pump installation."

Being explicit here could, I believe, reduce confusion and stress and resentment.

I do not plan to request time for a public comment on this issue.

Thank you very much for all you do, and for your attention to this detail.

Best wishes,
Lori

Lori Kenschaft
Electrify Arlington Coordinator

I work part-time to coordinate the Electrify Arlington program, which helps Arlington residents and landlords reduce their energy use, costs, and emissions. You can find information about Electrify Arlington volunteer coaches, heat pumps and heat pump installers, weatherization, water heater options, and much more on the Electrify Arlington website at ArlingtonMA.gov/electrify.