

To whom it may concern:

My name is Nia Callender and I am not only a resident of Massachusetts but an intern with Clean Water Action Massachusetts. I am writing this testimony in support of Massachusetts committing to a long-term and equitable strategy that protects the health and wealth of our communities with Energy Efficiency.

I know that Energy Efficiency is incredibly important for both public health and the environment. EE initiatives can help cut carbon pollution and the energy expended from power plants that are both common factors in lung damage and asthma. We know that this can affect everyone and it certainly affects everyone but it disproportionately affects our most vulnerable communities including those that are low-income and language-isolated. Being able to afford energy bills should be a right not a privilege. Having heat in the intense New England winters and air conditioning in the heat of the summer should be a right not a privilege. More importantly, these services necessary to live and thrive should not cost a whole paycheck every month.

It is imperative that Massachusetts develops a three-year plan that helps bridge the communication gap between landlord and tenant, develop a multilingual taskforce, and that makes the Mass Save program as accessible to all. Mass Save can truly help people reduce energy bills at the same time as providing efficiency upgrades and incentives such as insulation, heat pumps, and smart thermostats.

If we work together, we can develop a plan that works to help everyone feel comfortable in their homes at the same time as helping our environment. Today, I urge you to listen to people's stories and develop an equitable and long-term strategy that centers underserved communities in our fight for Energy Efficiency.