

Hello - I'm Aaron Gunderson, Executive Director of PHMass. We previously submitted recommendations to this group and have posted them on our website, PHMass.org, for anyone who would like to review them. I would like to thank this group for considering many of these recommendations in the draft three-year plan, including the continuation of the Passive House incentive program for multifamily buildings and the workforce training program for architects, builders, and others.

Both of these programs have been enormous successes over this last three-year period and it is great to see this group recognize this and support their continuation.

We also submitted a recommendation for an expansion of the incentive program into 1-4 unit buildings and while we are pleased to see some aspects of this included in the proposed Path to Zero program, we would like to reinforce the importance of explicitly including Passive House in the program. The multifamily program has been such a success in large part due to the straightforward goal and clear metrics of Passive House certification and the quality control, assurance, and third-party verification it provides.

Passive House Institute U.S has rolled out a new prescriptive path for smaller residential buildings under tier PHIUS+2021 program that ensures that the same metrics are achieved at a lower cost barrier. Additionally, the workforce trainings provided through the current three-year plan have increased the number of contractors with the knowledge and experience needed to build 1-4 unit Passive House buildings.

The draft of the Path to Zero program is a great start and we are very happy to see small-scale residential buildings addressed, we hope this group incorporates Passive House certification into the incentives for them.

We would also like to show our support for the proposal for deep energy retrofits in the LEAN program. Beyond this, we submitted a recommendation for a Passive House Retrofit program. As you know, existing buildings will present the largest challenge to the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets, and it's necessary to address them just as aggressively as new buildings. Passive House is just as applicable to retrofits as it is to new builds, though the cost premium may be higher, which is why an incentive program to offset this and encourage Passive House retrofits is critical and we believe it can be just as successful as the new construction initiatives.

I know this committee has quite the challenge in front of it and I applaud your efforts and look forward to the final plan. Thank you for your time.

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