

TO: Energy Efficiency Advisory Council
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Coming Together Anti-Racism Project
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As others have said, we are in a climate emergency. Our species, all around the world, is threatened by human-caused climate change. We are in a race to reduce greenhouse gas emissions before climate change reaches runaway proportions from which we will never be able to recover. This is literally a race for our lives. In this situation, the fact that not all the monies allocated to MassSave are being spent, is truly unconscionable.

Mass Save is an excellent program that currently has inadequate policies, inadequate administration, and insufficient implementation. We can do better!

I'd like to speak briefly to 3 points.

First, MassSave must do a better job of serving low income households, people of color, disabled people, the elderly and people whose first language is not English. The data available indicate that MassSave is currently providing a greater proportion of benefits to white people and people with adequate income. This in effect makes it a program of affirmative action for white people and those who are economically well-off. I'm sure this is not the intention, but policies must be designed to prioritize those in greatest need. Otherwise, the program is, and will continue to be, racially biased. Energy assessments for these households should be offered on a proactive "opt-out" basis so

they don't have to go through the time-consuming and sometimes difficult process of obtaining services. Pilot programs should be developed to identify the most effective ways of reaching the households in greatest need. Data must be collected and disaggregated to provide transparency about who MassSave is reaching and the impact of the program on different populations.

Secondly, MassSave must find ways to enable renters who pay their own utility bills to benefit from the program; and work closely with landlords to achieve much greater energy efficiency.

Thirdly, energy efficiency measures that reduce peak demand must be covered. This is important because at peak demand dirtier and more costly energy comes into the mix; and because reducing peak demand will reduce any perceived need for additional fossil fuel infrastructure such as new pipelines, which are counter-productive as we are engaged in a full transition to alternative energy sources.

Bold, visionary recommendations from your panel can be part of creating healthier communities, and solving climate change, the greatest problem facing humankind. Please go all out to assist the building of a clean, healthy, green Massachusetts through a MassSave program that promotes racial and economic equity and dramatically reduces greenhouse gas emissions from our buildings.