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Debra A. Howland, Executive Director  
Public Utilities Commission  
Concord, NH 03301

This letter is to offer my comments on the CORE Energy Efficiency Programs, as invited by the Public Utilities Commission "Notice of Public Meeting" (pursuant to PUC Order Number 25,569). I am unable to attend the hearing.

I am a state legislator, but I write this letter as a private citizen. I applaud the CORE program's goals and its execution as far as I know from experience, which amounts to attending an energy audit performed for a Liberty Utilities customer (I will have attended another by October 7 - in both cases I was invited by the customer, as I am known locally to be concerned about energy conservation).

My points:

1. Energy efficiency in buildings is of paramount importance. All forms of energy production produce greenhouse gases and involve recurring costs (or will until all energy is produced by systems that use only geothermal or solar energy (i.e. wind, hydro, or direct solar) and last forever). The recurring costs currently amount to billions of dollars per year going out of state for fossil fuels. Also, energy efficiency is an economic activity that could mean lots of jobs that can neither be automated nor off-shored. \*

\*(Oversimplifying a bit: Years ago, capital was used to build factories that hired workers, and workers and investors shared the benefits of the investments. Today capital is used to program computers and thereby get rid of workers, with all the rewards going to shareholders. This is socially unsustainable.)

2. I believe the goal of reducing electrical costs is less important than reducing energy costs and CO2 emissions generally, and inconsistent with the more important goal of reducing energy demand. Accordingly, I suggest that the CORE program should be designed to maximize the reduction of any wasteful energy consumption. In terms of this "design", an interesting feature of Massachusetts' MASS SAVE program - which I experienced first-hand because my daughter purchased a home in that state and I arranged for and attended both the audit and the retrofit work, a total of three days - is that it offers air sealing for free, which is consistent with the oft-repeated principle that minimizing uncontrolled air exchange (infiltration) is the "first and foremost", essential step in any residential retrofit.

3. Liberty Utilities evidently contracted an energy-audit firm to perform the audits I attended, and I was impressed - indeed very surprised - by the thoroughness of the audit. I hope that the CORE program as implemented by the other utilities is as good.

4. My impression of the CORE program had been that it was difficult for a customer to understand and approach, given that there is not a single web site or phone number or other "entry point". However, the Liberty Utilities experience was very positive. I will have to revisit this before I make a comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

John E. Mann