

Dear Commissioner Commissioner Judith Judson,

It was a pleasure meeting and speaking with you on December 9, 2016 during which time my business associate Paul Eldrenkamp and I discussed a variety of energy related topics, most notably Passive House. Thank you for being so generous with your time.

I am writing for three reasons:

1. I'm still a member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers - IEEE - and receive a number of their publications, including their EnergyWise newsletter. I recall your interest in energy related matters, particularly energy storage, If you would like me to send the occasional article which might precisely target that interest, please let me know - mduclos@deapgroup.com

2. Paul and I are consulting on a low cost senior housing facility of 24 units to be constructed to the Passive House standard in Guilford, NH. We have successfully pre-certified the project and construction will begin as soon as the contractor selection is finalized.

Construction to the Passive House standard was made possible by tax credits for such projects constructed to the Passive House standard. Unfortunately these tax credits are available in NH, but not in MA.

Our attempts to move MA to adopt this practice have to date been fruitless.

I was able to connect Ian Finlayson to Hank Keating, a recently retired VP of Trinity Financial (I was the consultant on Hank's Passive House) Hank is intimately familiar with the details of large multi-family construction and the large influence these tax credits play in awarding projects. Any assistance you can provide in helping bring MA up to date with respect to the Passive House tax credits would be most appreciated.

Tim McDonald who is championing this cause as a high leverage point in the system has organized a conference at Temple University in August on this topic, might someone from your department attend to represent MA ?

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I don't understand all the politics, but I believe MAHCD is the issue, Ian would know the details.

Tim McDonald has been instrumental in the adoption of tax credits for Passive House construction in a number of other states, I'm sure this will be an excellent conference which will trigger additional Passive House activity, we'd love to have MA become a part of that activity.

3. Finally I am writing as a solar supporter to ask that you improve the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program. Continued solar growth is critical to the Massachusetts economy and keeping

our environment clean and safe for our families and future generations. The SMART program should be improved by:

1) Setting the incentive levels at a level that will encourage continued solar development and protect solar jobs in the Commonwealth. The competitive process to set these levels should be allowed a higher ceiling to insure the entire program will work in the years to come. At the same time, additional support (adders) for community solar, low-income solar and other priority development should be protected from decline over time to ensure continued and accelerated growth of these types of projects.

2) Removing the caps on these adders, so that community solar, low-income solar and solar with storage are encouraged as much as possible. Caps on the total capacity of projects that can qualify for these adders and the cap on total adders any given project can use should both be removed.

3) Encouraging the continued use of solar net metering to fairly compensate solar customers for their valuable solar power. The SMART program has not proposed any adequate replacement for net metering and will not be successful without the continued existence of fair and full compensation for solar customers in the Commonwealth. DOER should work with the legislature to raise net metering caps immediately.

Thank you for your work to continue Massachusetts' continued solar leadership. I appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the new SMART program and hope you will make these much needed improvements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me - mduclos@deapgroup.com / 978-793-3189

Sincerely,

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Michael Duclos