

Board of Directors

Nancy Reich
Chief Executive Officer

**Representatives of the
Private Sector**

John Parent
President

Richard Ellis
Vice President

Stuart Nichols
Secretary

Richard Hunter
Member at Large

Robert Karp
Member at Large

Elected Public Officials

Joseph Bruso
Treasurer

Richard Day
Emeritus Member

Jane Dumas
Emeritus Member

Carol Leary
Member at Large

Ben Peets
Member at Large

Raymond Susice
Member at Large

**Representatives of
Low-Income
Individuals and Families**

Fr. Dan Callahan
Member at Large

William Kinsley
Member at Large

Phyllis Magnus,
Emeritus Member

Shirley Morris
Member at Large

Nancy Phillips
Member at Large

John Ray
Member at Large

Jaclyn A. Brillig, Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire state Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

10/12/05

Re: System Benefit Charges Case 05-M-0090

We are writing to encourage you to increase the funding for NYSERDA's Residential Energy Conservation Programs. We have begun implementing this program and have received a lot of recent interest because of the skyrocketing cost of home heating fuel. Thirty people have filed applications with us to have Home Performance audits in the last two weeks.

In this part of the state we have little natural gas, over 70% of homes heat with oil, our housing stock is the oldest in the state and thus poorly insulated, and our per-capita income is second lowest of any county. So we constantly receive inquiries about how we can help people reduce their fuel bills. Home Performance and the programs funded by the SBC are the only help we can offer to middle and lower-middle income folks, for which, unfortunately there is very little in the way of assistance these days.

Every person in the North Country dealing in any way with fuel issues, home weatherization, the aged, or emergency services is very worried about what will happen in a few months when temperatures reach 20 below. Case managers are losing sleep over this – literally.

NYSERDA and the public Utilities commission have managed to craft imaginatively designed programs which combine incentives and grants in creative, innovative ways. Moreover Home Performance programs are well positioned to complement and mutually-leverage the energy tax credit provision of the recently passed federal energy bill.

We ask that you expand and liberalize these programs. If there was ever a perfect time to expand any public program it is now for NYSERDA's residential energy programs.

Nancy Reich

Executive Director
ComlinksCAA 343 Main St.
Malone N.Y.