

In response to Case 05-M-0090 in the Matter of the System Benefits Charge (SBC) III, I offer the following comments.

As a residential rate payer in Con Edison's service territory, I know first-hand the negative impact high energy costs have upon families in New York State, especially the low-income. By developing and providing programs that educate consumers in effective energy choices and long term alternative sustainable options has never been more important than the present.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has consistently proven in SBC I and II that using innovative approaches to today's energy needs can produce viable solutions for New York's residential and commercial end users. With this being said, more residential consumers pay into the SBC than commercial consumers; and the division of SBC funds needs to reflect that.

High energy costs affect all consumers but can cripple the low-income population. Funding for the low-income programs needs to be increased; due to the pending "energy situation". NYSERDA's Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® and Assisted Multifamily Program (AMP) provides additional subsidies to help low-income consumers reduce their out of pocket energy costs and provides the added benefit of additional income, which can be used on other things. The "trickle down" effect not only helps the consumer, but the local businesses.

Efforts to achieve market transformation must be a lined with a consistent cause of action. Funding cycles should be of sufficient length to maintain continuity as new initiatives mature. To this end, increasing SBC III to eight or more years would allow NYSERDA to fully ramp-up and mature programs while making any necessary adjustments. An 8 year or longer term would allow an effective evaluation to fully quantify the metrics associated with the **New York Energy \$martsm** Programs.

Continuing the excellent programs already in place and developing new technologies, initiatives and products are vital; and at a minimum, should be funded at the current level. Taking into account the effect inflation can have both on research and development and implementation of programs. Consideration must be given to increase funding levels to keep pace with rising costs. The need to aggressively market new concepts throughout the state is costly, especially in the New York City area. The ability to meet this challenge would be enhanced with increased resources and revenues.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud both the Public Service Commission and NYSERDA in their continuing efforts on behalf of the people of the State of New York. NYSERDA's award winning programs have been acknowledged nationally for their success and serves as a model to the rest of the States.

These programs not only save energy; but money; and they improve the environment and

extend well beyond our borders; as we reduce dependence on domestic and foreign fossil fuel sources.

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