

Dear Governor Rell,

I am writing to you regarding the Weatherization Assistance Program funding the state of Connecticut is receiving as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). As the owner of a home improvement business based in Norwalk, this program could potentially be of great benefit to me and my men. The type of work involved is a fit with our skill set and experience. We are licensed, insured and have an unblemished record with the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection and the Connecticut Better Business Bureau. Based on the scope and duration of this program I am certain that not only would jobs be saved in my company, but also new jobs would be created. Due to the current industry wide downturn there is ample skilled labor available. I would be able to provide a "job ready" labor force with zero training costs. My objective is to become an approved, qualified contractor for this program accomplishing the dual goals of putting people back to work and reducing our state's carbon footprint and dependency on fossil fuels. My efforts thus far have met with limited success.

It is my understanding that the state is to receive \$65 million to support the Weatherization Assistance Program. Prior to the ARRA funding the Connecticut Weatherization Assistance program had an annual budget of approximately \$2.5 million. I suspect that the exponential increase in funding has put a strain (understandably) on the infrastructure the state currently has in place to administer the program. Prior to writing you I have written Senators Dodd and Lieberman, Congressman Himes, my Connecticut State Senator and Representative, Mr. Matt Fritz of your administration, the State Department of Social Services and the ABCD Community Action Agency in Bridgeport. In each case I have been looking for guidance as how to proceed; What do I need to do to become an approved qualified contractor for this program? The responses I've received have ranged from no response to cordial but vague answers. I'm getting the sense that people aren't exactly sure how to proceed.

I am now looking directly to you and your staff for help in this matter. I am willing to do whatever is necessary to get the process moving forward and ensure that these funds are spent wisely and with the intended results. If the lack of qualified energy auditors is a potential bottleneck in the process I am available to be trained in this role and serve in this function. The bill was approved by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Obama. Now is the time to put it into action. We cannot allow a bureaucratic log jam to delay our economic recovery. I believe in the Weatherization Assistance Program not only for the potential benefits to me and my men, but also for more altruistic reasons. This is the epitome of doing well by doing good. It is a win-win-win situation. Job creation, positive environmental impact, and improving the quality of life of certain residents in our state. Any help you can offer me on navigating the system would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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