

## Rebecca Buck

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**From:** Theresa Utton  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2019 11:51 AM  
**To:** Peter Fagan  
**Cc:** Rebecca Buck  
**Subject:** FW: hearing testimony

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**From:** bill kinney <[bmkinney\\_77@comcast.net](mailto:bmkinney_77@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2019 11:46 AM  
**To:** Theresa Utton <[TUTTON@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:TUTTON@leg.state.vt.us)>  
**Subject:** hearing testimony

Hi Theresa,

**Due to high winds today, we will not be attending the Rutland hearing but we would like you to include our thoughts in this communication.**

**Feel free to call me at 802-362-2672 if you have any questions.**

Regards,  
Marilyn Kinney

**From:** bill kinney <[bmkinney\\_77@comcast.net](mailto:bmkinney_77@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2019 2:24 PM  
**To:** Melanie Paskevich <[mpaskevich@nwwvt.org](mailto:mpaskevich@nwwvt.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Need Your Help to Support HEAT Squad on Feb 25th  
**Importance:** High

Hi Melanie,

We would be delighted to attend the Rutland location(weather permitting) and give testimony. I am slightly challenged by my Mac so i will write my statement in this email.

Good Evening. My name is Marilyn Kinney and I live in East Dorset with my husband Bill. We bought 10 acres of woods with steep access in 1975, and after clearing an acre and installing a 1500' driveway, we proceeded to build our homestead starting the summer of 1976. Over the years we added 2 additions and now have a 2200 sq ft home. With 9 acres of 'free' wood available, we heated with wood and had an oil burner as backup. For the last 7 years we bought a truckload of log lengths to feed the wood boiler(who we named Stewie) in the basement. This was less work than the 'free' wood and somewhat less dangerous but still involved a chainsaw, splitter, and moving wood and ashes. Our house was either very warm or not so much as the wood boiler was not easy to regulate. Bill had to bring in at least 6 loads of wood a day, get up in the middle of the night going down 2 flights of stairs to feed Stewie, bring out a big tray of very hot ashes every 4 days, and worst of all-get up on a metal roof to clean the chimney every 3 weeks. There was also a lot of soot in the air which aggravated his asthma. Jumping forward. We wanted to tighten up the house and talked about getting a house energy audit. At Town Meeting last year we picked up a brochure and because the audit was half price, decided to make an appointment. Rick Schappy arrived in April and we learned that we were heating another 2.5 houses that we

were not living in. The audit showed us where the heat loss was happening. The house that we thought had insulated pretty well in 1976 was only filtering hot air to the outside. Rick advised us to caulk cracks, foam insulate the old stone foundation, and air seal the attic. We did some of the work but the foaming was done by a local contractor who did a great job and was very professional.. The house is much tighter now. Rick came back for a 2nd test and there was a greater than 50% improvement in our heat retention which entitled us to some State rebate of our expenses. Rick also helped us participate in a wood stove replacement program that enabled us to remove our wood boiler and replace it with an efficient wood pellet boiler and heat pump hot water system, both being installed by local contractors. This was a big job which we never would have considered without the support of Heat Squad. This has tremendously improved our quality of life with a cleaner, warmer home without risking injury every winter. We are saving on heating costs and helping save our environment. We would like others to have the opportunity to improve their homes by the continuation of Heat Squad programs funded by the FY 2020 State Budget and hope you will include the \$1.25 million to help expand these programs throughout the State of Vermont.

We are very happy we decided to get that audit started and very thankful to Melanie and Rick for their help.  
Marilyn and Bill Kinney