



To Whom It May Concern:

There is a bill moving through the Montana Legislature that undermines the ability of everyday Montanans to make long term, energy-saving investments in their homes. Senate Bill 282, sponsored by Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R-Kalispell), repeals state income tax credits that homeowners use to help pay for insulation, high efficiency heating and cooling systems, new windows and home power systems.

I run a small Montana-based business that sells and installs insulation, heating, and cooling systems that qualify for these tax credits. I won't pretend that a \$500/ person conservation credit alone drives customers to hire us. However I am certain that these incentives help our customers bridge the cost gap to install materials and systems that are more reliable, efficient and safer than the cheaper substitutes.

This is not a partisan issue. The equipment incentivized by the Alternative Energy Systems, Geothermal Systems and Energy Conservation tax credits simply helps people save money. I urge you to join me in calling on your state Representative and Senator to protect the energy conservation tax credits by voting "No" on Senate Bill 282.

Thank you.

Russ Hellem
Owner, Energetechs