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March 24, 2009

To: Public Service Commission

Re: Weatherization Rebate Program

Stock Building Supply, as a member of the Energy Alliance since 2007, was extremely pleased to see public utilities stepping up to assist their customers in becoming more energy efficient and thus saving money on their energy needs.

Based upon the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recommendations for this area of the country (R49 attic), a large percentage of Utah homes are under insulated. R19 attics were the norm well into the 1980's, currently new construction standards require more than R38. Educating the public, not only on what R value is, but how bringing insulation levels up to recommended levels can benefit them can be a daunting task. Personally, our goal is to bring any existing attic up to recommended levels, but many people would rather invest in what they can see (i.e. new counter-tops, cabinets, carpet etc). However homeowners that participate even in the minimum R19 program will benefit from lower energy costs and reduced consumption.

As an insulation contractor, we have a fairly small staff and relied on new construction for many years, but as the slow down grew and money tightened, people saw the rebate programs as a means to not only help homeowners, but help bring new business. This also attracted many entrepreneurs and many of those companies have hired field representatives to blanket the area informing people of the potential rebates, and consequently the response to the program has been tremendous. Enforcing that licensed, insured, certified contractors are doing the work and keeping the customers' best interest in mind will help make this program even more successful.

This program by itself has kept many individuals away from the unemployment line, perhaps an unintentional side effect, but a very significant one. It is our belief that reducing or eliminating the rebate amount at this time would have a devastating effect on this program and the many businesses providing the install services. We support a restructure of the qualifications for the rebate before lowering the incentive amount. If it appears the budget does not allow for the continuation of this program, we believe that out of consideration to customers and business men more advanced notice should be given.

Sincerely,

Clint Panter, Insulation Manager