

## House Bill 1724:

Rep. Jennifer E. Benson

### *Creating new and expanded energy efficiency opportunities for Massachusetts consumers*

The bill would expand on the existing Green Communities Act of 2008 (GCA) to allow for expanded services and opportunities for the existing portfolio of Energy Efficiency programs to meet consumers' needs. This is critical because technology has evolved dramatically to offer new and valuable services that were not available even 10 years ago. The following points summarize the benefits that H. 1724 could bring upon enactment and implementation by the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC) and Mass Save administrators:

1. The bill would explicitly require that economic development benefits be considered during development and deployment of programs under Mass Save. This is important because it would encourage Program Administrators to favor programs that create more jobs and other economic development benefits.
2. The bill would expand opportunities for the programs to provide services that support customers by explicitly allowing for choice among a broader range of energy technologies such as renewables, storage, fuel cells, electric vehicle charging and other emerging technologies. Unintended barriers exist in the current legislation; the bill will remove the barriers.
3. The bill also explicitly establishes that demand management in addition to demand reduction is a clear objective of our energy efficiency strategy.
4. Lastly, the bill would direct cost-effectiveness evaluation to be performed at the sector level rather than the program level. This would increase flexibility while maintaining the requirement that energy efficiency efforts be cost-effective. H. 1724 would facilitate the focus on building occupants' needs rather than on arbitrary categories.

**CALL TO ACTION: House 1724 has been voted favorably out of committee and has now passed on to Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> reading which is the last step before a vote in the House. We need a strong movement to encourage the committee to move this legislation to a vote in the House. Starting Monday June 18 we are urging energy advocates to call their State Representative to urge action on H1724.**