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**Date:** 6/10/24

**Topic:** Maintaining support for pellet heating

**Suzanne MacDonald,**

I am writing to express my strong support for pellet heating systems and to advocate for the continuation of flat-funded rebates for these systems. This letter is in response to the recent publication of Triennial Plan VI pertinent to Fiscal Years 2026-2028, specifically, I strongly oppose the fourth finding in section 5.4, Home Energy Savings Program which recommends discontinuing the available RGII funds on pellet boiler/furnaces.

One of the fundamental advantages of pellet heating lies in its feedstock. Pellets are predominantly made from wood residuals such as sawdust and wood chips—materials that are by-products of other processes. If these residuals were left to decompose in landfills, they would emit the same amount of carbon dioxide as they do when burned as pellets, but without providing any energy benefit. By converting these residuals into pellets, we harness this otherwise wasted energy and use it to heat homes efficiently.

Contrary to the assertion that pellet boiler and furnace measures do not screen cost-effectively or support near-term carbon reduction goals, evidence shows that pellet heating systems significantly reduce carbon emissions compared to fossil fuel heating systems. By burning a renewable, carbon-neutral resource, pellet stoves offset the need for oil, natural gas, or propane heating, which are major sources of carbon emissions. This transition is crucial for meeting our carbon reduction targets and ensuring a sustainable future.

While weatherization is undeniably important, it should not come at the expense of other effective carbon reduction strategies. Pellet heating systems provide a dual benefit: they reduce carbon emissions and promote the use of renewable energy. By focusing exclusively on weatherization and neglecting pellet heating, we miss an opportunity to diversify our approach to carbon reduction and to support a technology that can have an immediate positive impact.

Pellet heating systems are also cost-effective in the long term. The initial investment, often mitigated by rebates, is offset by the lower operational costs and the price stability of pellet fuel compared to fossil fuels. Additionally, the local production of pellets supports regional economies and creates jobs, providing further economic benefits that fossil fuel heating systems do not.

In conclusion, I urge you to continue supporting pellet heating systems through flat-funded rebates. This support is vital for promoting renewable energy, reducing carbon emissions, and providing an affordable heating solution to many households. Discontinuing this measure would be a step backward in our efforts to achieve comprehensive and effective carbon reduction.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I hope you will see the value in maintaining and promoting pellet heating systems as part of our broader strategy to combat climate change and support sustainable energy solutions.

Best,

Frank Kvietok, Ph.D.  
Senior Director of Innovation