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**In the Matter of Comprehensive Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Resource Analysis for
Fiscal Year 2026 Clean Energy Program
Docket No. QO25040205**

**In the Matter of the Clean Energy Programs and Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026
Docket No. QO25040206**

June 6, 2025

Support for Continued and Expanded Funding of the Whole House Pilot Program

Dear President Guhl-Sadovy and Commissioners Christodoulou, Abdou, and Bange,

As over 25 organizations committed to advancing clean energy and community well-being across New Jersey, we urge the Board of Public Utilities to support the continuation and expansion of the Whole House Pilot Program in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Clean Energy Program budget.

According to the original research that prompted the pilot program, upwards of 35% of New Jersey households qualify as low-income and 12% of the population is considered extremely low-income. Of that 12%, 11% experience high energy burdens on an ongoing basis.

The Whole House Pilot is a vital tool for improving the health, safety, and energy efficiency of homes across the state—particularly for low-income and overburdened households. By addressing structural barriers such as mold, outdated electrical wiring and deteriorating roofing, the program enables residents to finally access cost-saving energy efficiency services from which they were previously excluded.

Early results from the Trenton pilot underscore the program's critical impact: 20 homes have already been improved, with 80% exhibiting mold and 90% suffering from moisture issues—clear evidence of the need for intervention. The program's average cost per home (\$9,698) is consistent with similar national efforts, and its return on investment is substantial. According to U.S. Department of Energy data, weatherization yields an average of \$283 in annual household savings and returns \$4.59 in total benefits for every \$1 invested.

We also recognize the systemic benefits that flow from this program: Reducing high energy burdens helps families move off of utility assistance programs, lowering costs for all ratepayers. Improving building efficiency also reduces the amount of electricity needed by individual utilities, contributing to lower capacity charges within PJM markets.

If implementation speed is a concern, we recommend expanding the program beyond Trenton and utilizing additional providers to meet demand more effectively. New Jersey has the opportunity to build on successful models like Pennsylvania's Whole Home Repair Program, which has already completed more than 2,300 projects with over 19,000 applicants still waitlisted, demonstrating the immense demand for such services.

The Whole House Pilot is not just an energy initiative—it is a housing security initiative, a workforce initiative, a public health initiative and a community safety initiative. According to E2's 2023 Clean Jobs New Jersey Report, energy efficiency is New Jersey's largest energy workforce sector, employing over 36,000 workers statewide. And for the first time since 2008, New Jersey ranked in the top 10 nationally for energy efficiency programming.

Now is not the time to pause or scale back. There remains significant unmet need—and viable alternative funding sources exist, including excess proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), Infrastructure Bank, global warming funds, and potentially even health and human services dollars if energy efficiency is declared a necessary improvement for health.

We respectfully urge the Board to include continued and expanded funding for the Whole House Pilot Program in the FY 25-26 budget. Let's build on what's working and ensure all New Jerseyans have access to safe, efficient, and affordable homes.

Sincerely,

Jeaneen Zappa, Executive Director
Brad Barkdoll, Government Affairs Director
The Energy Efficiency Alliance

On behalf of

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Action Together New Jersey

Sean Jackson
Isles

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American Council for an Energy-Efficient
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