



PELLERGY

Town of East Montpelier Selectboard
ATTN: Seth Gardner, Chair
Town Office Building
40 Kelton Road
PO Box 157
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Reference: Advanced Wood Heat Boiler Grant Application to the USDA

28 MAY 2026

Dear Mr. Chair and Selectboard Members of East Montpelier,

Pellergy LLC is a Montpelier-based company that has worked for the past 17 years with homeowners, businesses, contractors, and municipalities to install Advanced Wood Heating systems throughout Central Vermont. We have installed many systems in East Montpelier and neighboring communities and continue to provide service and support directly and through our network of local installers.

I am writing regarding the Advanced Wood Heat Boiler Grant Application submitted by the Town of East Montpelier to the USDA Forest Service under its Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity.

Pellergy strongly supports the goals of this grant and the use of federal funding to help local homeowners and businesses install Advanced Wood Heating systems.

However, as currently written, the application would prevent Pellergy LLC and the more than two dozen local contractors we work with from participating competitively in the project. The application identifies Lyme Green Heat of Lyme, New Hampshire, as the sole-source provider for all equipment and installation services.

For a project involving multiple wood pellet boiler installations in and around the village of East Montpelier, we believe it is in the public interest to allow competitive bidding. We believe that Pellergy LLC, our local installers, independent contractors, and established local plumbing and heating companies should have the opportunity to compete for work associated with this grant, if awarded.

We respectfully request that the Selectboard pass a resolution stating that, if the Town of East Montpelier receives a USDA Forest Service grant for Advanced Wood Heating systems, any resulting grant agreement will ensure that all qualified Advanced Wood Heating contractors and eligible equipment providers may participate in and benefit from the awarded funds.

Efficiency Vermont (EVT) currently administers the Vermont's only rebate program for Advanced Wood Heating systems. To qualify for rebate funding, homeowners must work with a certified contractor and install approved equipment.



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EVT's Efficiency Excellence Network (EEN) was established to ensure participating contractors are properly trained in the installation of specific systems, follow industry best practices, provide strong customer support, and maintain appropriate liability insurance coverage. EVT also reviews and approves eligible equipment, including wood pellet boilers, to ensure products are UL-listed, EPA-tested and approved, and meet established efficiency standards.

We believe that EVT-certified EEN contractors and EVT-qualified equipment provide appropriate and objective standards for participation in this grant program. Pellergy LLC, many local contractors we work with and Lyme Green Heat are all EEN participating contractors.

We have spoken with many stakeholders involved in this effort, including Celine Barton of Lyme Green Heat, and have received positive feedback supporting broader contractor participation in the program.

We believe the overall impact of the grant can be strengthened through an inclusive and competitive process involving multiple qualified contractors. By working together, we can increase awareness of Advanced Wood Heating systems, maximize the number of installations supported by the grant funding, and deliver the greatest value to the residents of East Montpelier.

I welcome any questions and continued discussion regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Andrew L Boutin
Founder and General Manager

copy:

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