

January 24, 2020

Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Government of Ontario
Room B-304, Whitney Block
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A2

Attention: Julia Douglas, Clerk

Dear Julia Douglas,

Re: Consumer protection through energy labelling of homes

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments to the Ontario Government's budget consultation process.

We are a social enterprise in Waterloo Region that supports residents in making their homes more energy efficient and flood resilient. We have seen how difficult it can be for the average Ontario homeowner to make good decisions for their home renovation when they don't know enough about their own home to begin with. A very important step forward would be to provide energy labels for every home. This could be implemented at time of sale of a home and over time would spread to all homes.

Our recommendation

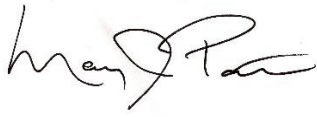
We ask the government to implement energy labelling of homes at the time of sale. This has a number of benefits related to the government's goals in this budget:

- a) Energy labelling creates **a more competitive business environment** through consumer protection – giving prospective buyers honest information about the fuel costs they can anticipate if they purchase the home. It would help to attach value to energy efficient homes also, an investment that would be reflected in the purchase price.
- b) **It makes life more affordable** by spurring sellers to upgrade the efficiency of the home before selling, or buyers to do so after buying, leading to lower energy bills for the occupants.
- c) It builds **healthier and safer communities** through healthier and safer homes – the renovations spurred by energy labelling address drafts, lack of adequate ventilation, and overall comfort of the home in different seasons.

- d) **Home energy labelling creates jobs**, by spurring renovations that employ trades in their own community, making our communities less reliant on energy purchased from other provinces or countries. The 9,000 homes that have added energy upgrades based on Reep Green Solutions' recommendations over the past 20 years have injected an estimated \$50 Million into our economy through those upgrades. This makes economic sense.

We appreciate the invitation to submit our comments, and would be happy to give more context on energy labelling of homes. Our community of Waterloo Region would be a great one to pilot a new program along these lines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Jane Patterson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mary Jane Patterson
Executive Director