

From: NRDC <nrdcinfo@nrdconline.org> on behalf of Kenneth Smith
<earthtime_1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 7:56 PM
To: !FHFA REG-COMMENTS
Subject: RIN 2590-AA53 - Restore PACE programs now

Mar 17, 2012

General Alfred Pollard

Dear General Pollard,

[Please withhold my email and home addresses from the public record.]

I urge the Federal Housing Finance Agency to modify and restore the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs to help property owners like me make energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to our homes, businesses and factories.

PACE programs that offer incentives for the purchase and installation by the homeowner would save homeowners and businesses money on energy bills, freeing up money that would be spent on non-energy related purchases that would be spent locally and the dollars recirculated locally. Such modified eligibility for incentives would create and sustain local jobs, reduce our dependence on coal and other fossil fuels, and cut pollution that harms our health and environment.

Enabling do-it-yourself homeowners like me to be eligible for rebates or low interest financing on the purchase of materials such as insulation to make improvements that increase energy efficiency and those that can take advantage of passive solar gain, would help home owners benefit from lower utility bills. Forcing me to hire a contractor to take advantage of such incentives may work for more complex improvements such as installing a new furnace, but I and others like me recognize that it is expensive to hire contractors for simpler improvements than to do the improvements ourselves. PACE can also help reduce default risk and improve home values.

I urge you to withdraw the July 2010 directive that froze PACE programs and allow these programs to move forward, but with the modification favoring the do-it-yourself homeowner that I have outlined above.

Hundreds of communities in the 27 states that have passed PACE-enabling legislation are counting on your agency to reinstate these programs at a time when we need them most. I and others like me are counting on you to ensure that the benefits are reachable by the do-it-yourself homeowner/improver.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kenneth Smith
11 Sumpter Ave
Albany, NY 12203-5009