
From: Paul Kiesler [PERSONAL EMAIL REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 6:45 PM
To: erda.sm.rggiprograms
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Expanded EmPower+ Funding

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Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is Paul Kiesler & I live in Gardiner, NY which is in the Hudson Valley Region. I am writing to support greater funding for the Empower+ Program.

Living in this region, I see a large amount of poor, older housing stock which is very inefficient. I have the good fortune of having the funds to renovate my own home which was built in 1880. We added insulation and installed energy efficient appliances and heating. Life before these improvements was not nice – the house was cold and drafty in the Winter, and we could smell gas escaping from the stove as well as oil fumes from the basement.

But many lower income folks don't have the money to make the repairs to their housing and either suffer during the winter and Summer, or have huge bills, or some combination of both. Their pain is both physical and financial.

We need to support our neighbors to live in safe, comfortable and affordable homes, especially in this time of rising inflation.

I also want to note that the EmPower+ program creates a lot of well-paying local jobs. I have seen this myself with this burgeoning industry in the local area. Almost all of the repairs done in my house were done by young people. These businesses seem to employ many youngsters, which is great – it is giving the next generation hope that they too can have a bright future.

Please be as generous as possible in funding the EmPower+ program, it is so vital to improve the lives of our neighbors.

Thank you,

Paul Kiesler
[PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION REDACTED]