

Energy tax credit beneficial; deserves to be renewed

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(Photo: Stock art)

It appears the Legislature is preparing to kill the Small Premium Projects Energy Tax Credit. This tax credit helps landlords like myself weatherize properties in order to reduce the utility bills of my tenants.

I buy run-down apartments and renovate them to provide clean, comfortable housing that is still affordable. Because weatherization is often not easily seen and benefits only the tenants (since they pay the heat bills), this tax credit is generally the only way older apartments can afford to be upgraded. It saves lower-income tenants significantly on their utility bills, thereby lowering the overall cost of housing.

It seems unwise for the state Legislature to shut down one of the state's most effective tools for reducing the cost of housing for lower-income renters, helping the environment, saving energy and creating jobs.

Paul Kerley

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