FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2015
Contact: Hans Berg, LIHEAP Weatherization Program,( 360) 725-2961

State solicits public comment on request to weatherize more homes
Public hearing set for May 26 in Olympia

OLYMPIA, WA – The Washington State Department of Commerce will conduct a public hearing from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., May 26, 2015, in Olympia to receive comments on its waiver request for additional federal funds to weatherize homes. The hearing will be in the 2nd Floor Conference Room 207 of the Town Square Complex, Building 5, 1011 Plum Street SE, Olympia.

Each year, the state receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to reduce the heating costs of low-income families. By federal regulations, 85 percent of this money must be used to help pay heating bills. Only 15 percent can be used to weatherize homes and reduce long-term energy costs. If granted, the waiver would allow an additional 10 percent of the annual allocation to be used on weatherization efforts.

Commerce estimates the state may weatherize up to 1,010 additional homes as a result.

“The goal of the state’s request is to help low-income households reduce their long-term home energy costs,” said LIHEAP Weatherization Program Manager Hans Berg. “It especially helps those with the lowest incomes, who spend a high proportion of their household income for home energy.”

A copy of the draft weatherization request is available:

- Online at http://www.commerce.wa.gov/Programs/services/weatherization/Pages/default.aspx
- By phone at (360) 725-2961
- By email at hans.berg@commerce.wa.gov

Written comments are being accepted now, and must be received by May 26, 2015. Mail, email, or deliver to: Hans Berg, LIHEAP Weatherization Program, Commerce Community Services and Housing Division, PO Box 42525, 1011 Plum Street Olympia, WA 98504-2525, hans.berg@commerce.wa.gov.

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