

Dear Mr. Fanara,

My husband and I have worked very hard during the past 18 months to design and build a very energy-efficient home in Rye, New Hampshire. I have attached a listing of all the energy-efficient features we incorporated into the home.

One of the items we are using is a Hydron W048 water-to-water heat pump as part of an open loop geothermal system to heat water for the Warmboard radiant heating system. As a further energy-efficient feature, we did not put air conditioning in this home; we do not even have any ductwork. We are very pleased to see that water-to-water heat pumps may be included in the revised Energy Star specification for the federal tax credit. However, we are very disappointed that this tax credit will not be retroactive for the past year (2009).

The Hydron W048 heat pump has a COP of 3.6 for heating. The new Energy Star specifications for open loop water-to-water heat pumps call for a COP of at least 3.4 (Tier 1), 3.4 (Tier 2), and 3.5 (Tier 3). As you can see the Hydron heat pump meets these Energy Star criteria, but if the tax credit is not made retroactive through all of 2009, we would not qualify for this valuable tax credit.

I think you would agree from the attached listing that we have designed and built a home that exceeds the Energy Star standards in all respects and embodies the intent of the tax credit to inspire citizens to build more energy-efficient homes. It seems ridiculous in our case that we would not qualify for the geothermal heat pump tax credit due to a technicality during 2009. We respectfully ask you to please consider extending this tax credit to be retroactive through 2009.

Thank you for offering the opportunity to comment on the revised specifications.
Michele and Marc Sopher