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ARCHITECTURE & INTEGRATED DESIGN TEAM MANAGEMENT



REWIRING
AMERICA

June 21, 2023

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Chair
Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
1021 O Street, Suite 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 795 (Stern) – HVAC sales registry and compliance tracking system – **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Garcia and Committee Members:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to support SB 795 (Stern), which would direct the California Energy Commission (CEC) to create an HVAC equipment sales tracking system and a code compliance data repository for HVAC and commercial lighting to improve code compliance and lower the cost of enforcement. A functional and efficient system for code enforcement will improve the safety and energy efficiency of the heating, ventilation,

and air conditioning (HVAC) systems installed in California, and will further the state's clean energy, affordability, and decarbonization goals.

HVAC systems are the largest energy users in homes and many commercial buildings. These systems are essential to keep Californians safe during cold winter days and hot summer days, and quality installation of these systems is critical to keep energy bills affordable and reduce climate pollution. Unfortunately, many HVAC systems are installed incorrectly and there is currently little oversight to improve these issues. Poor installation leads to an estimated 20 to 30 percent HVAC energy waste, and unnecessary peak energy use that stresses the electric grid and increases the risk of power shortages.

The time of HVAC installation is also an important intervention point to ensure that safe, climate-friendly equipment is installed and that the old system, including the climate-harming refrigerant, is disposed of properly. Currently, contractors who play by the rules are unfairly penalized because they are undercut by contractors who skirt permit and code requirements. SB 795 will help contractors who comply with permit requirements by stepping up enforcement for those who don't.

To improve HVAC permitting compliance, SB 795 proposes two key tasks to be undertaken by the CEC: 1) developing an HVAC equipment sales tracking system and 2) developing a central code compliance data repository for HVAC equipment and commercial lighting to track the status of required documentation and ensure installation quality requirements are met. This will allow the CEC, CSLB and permitting offices to have streamlined access to code compliance documentation and ensure that contractors are pulling permits for each HVAC project.

SB 795 will reduce air pollution, lower energy bills, and help improve code compliance to promote quality HVAC installation and performance. We ask for your AYE vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

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