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*Comment Received From: Ali Alani
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I respectfully ask the California Energy Commission to abandon

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed HVACR and water heater sales registry. I appreciate the Commission's efforts to improve energy efficiency and compliance across California. However, as a California-based HVAC contractor, I respectfully oppose this proposal and ask the Commission to abandon it.

My company is a small, locally owned HVAC business based in Elk Grove, serving the greater Sacramento area. We have fewer than ten employees, including technicians and office staff. Like many small contractors, we already operate under extensive licensing, permitting, safety, and reporting requirements at the state and local levels.

The proposed sales registry would create a significant new administrative burden for small businesses. Each HVAC or water heater sale would require additional data entry, tracking, and compliance steps. For a small company without dedicated compliance staff, this means pulling time away from customer service, technician training, and quality installations. Over time, this added workload would reduce efficiency and strain already limited resources.

The registry would also increase costs. Compliance takes time, and time has a cost. Those costs will ultimately be passed on to homeowners through higher prices for repairs and replacements. At a time when affordability is already a challenge for many California families, adding another regulatory layer makes it harder for customers to move forward with energy-efficient upgrades.

I am also concerned about the collection and storage of confidential business and customer information. Sales data, equipment details, and customer addresses are sensitive. Centralizing this information in a state-run registry increases the risk of data exposure or misuse, while providing limited benefit to compliant contractors who already follow permitting rules.

Most importantly, the proposed registry will not solve permit compliance issues. Contractors who already pull permits will bear the burden of the registry, while unlicensed or non-compliant operators may continue to avoid permits entirely. Permit compliance is better addressed through improved enforcement, homeowner education, and coordination with local building departments—not through a sales registry.

This proposal would disrupt daily workflows, increase paperwork, and create delays without meaningfully improving outcomes. Licensed contractors want to focus on safe, high-quality installations and serving customers—not on navigating another reporting system.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the California Energy Commission to abandon the proposed HVACR and water heater sales registry and instead pursue solutions that address compliance concerns without placing additional burdens on small businesses and homeowners.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ali Alani