

## DOCKETED

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November 17, 2015

Commissioner Andrew McAllister  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth St., MS-34  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Das Williams  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0037

**RE: Thank you – AB 802 Energy Efficiency Savings and Benchmarking**

Dear Commissioner Andrew McAllister and Assembly Member Das Williams:

We are writing to thank you both for your leadership on AB 802, signed by Governor Jerry Brown this October. AB 802 greatly expands the opportunities to achieve energy efficiency savings in California, which will be critical to the state meeting the Governor's goal to double statewide energy savings, as well as the state's long-term climate and air quality goals.

We are writing in particular to congratulate you on section 5 of AB 802, which creates a statewide benchmarking program and ensures that commercial and multifamily building owners have access to whole-building monthly energy usage data to manage energy use, benchmark energy performance, and assess efficiency and renewable energy investment opportunities.

As you know, various challenges have prevented full implementation of California's AB 1103, originally passed in 2007. AB 802 removes these obstacles, providing a clear pathway for owners to invest in smart energy efficiency and renewable projects to improve building performance and lower tenants utility bills. For this reason, AB 802 was supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, The Utility Reform Network, California's major utilities, the California Business Properties Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and several major California cities.

By requiring utilities to provide whole-building data to owners by a date certain, the new legislation corrects the primary barrier to the state's previous benchmarking law, which was the inability of owners to receive whole-building energy usage information from their utility. With AB 802 enacted, utilities are now in the process of automating their data sharing processes by mapping individual building meters to each building's location, vastly expediting the process for owners. And with whole-building data, building owners will now be able to assess and finance efficiency and solar investments, participate in grant and incentive programs (especially those designed for affordable building owners), calculate utility

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allowances on affordable properties (which saves taxpayer funds and incentivizes owners to invest in efficiency), track and verify energy savings, and promote behavior change.

Under AB 802, California can once again retake its national leadership position on building benchmarking. Not only does AB 802 allow building owners and their occupants to experience lower energy bills and greater comfort, it will help the state capture the additional savings we need to meet the Governor's goals. Thanks to your leadership, the state now has a critical tool to advance energy efficiency and climate change. Future generations of Californians will be deeply grateful.

Sincerely,



Ralph Cavanagh  
Energy Program Co-Director



Maria Stamas  
Project Attorney, Energy & Climate