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Berkeley Lab Comments - RFI Inflation Reduction Act Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES)

Docket # 23-DECARB-01. Thank you.

Berkeley Lab

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

January 26th, 2024

Director Deana Carrillo &
Director Michael Sokol
Docket No. 23-DECARB-01
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: CEC's RFI: *Inflation Reduction Act Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES)*

Directors Carrillo and Sokol,

Berkeley Lab is pleased to provide comments on the CEC's approach to program design for the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) Program and its application to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for \$292 million in funds. Following are our comments in response to

1. Braiding HOMES with Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program. (a) Share any best practices for braiding federal and state funds for highly effective rebate, incentive, and/or direct install programs aimed at households in disadvantaged communities or meeting low-income guidelines.

Berkeley Lab recommends that a best practice would be to only give incentives for panel/service upgrades if it is shown to be necessary using NEC 220.87 or 220.83. We suggests minimizing the need for panel/service upgrades by providing incentives for:

- Low power, high performance heat pumps (e.g., 120V plug in portable units)
- 120 V Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWH)
- Induction cooking
- Condensing and heat pump clothes dryers
- Circuit sharing and pausing devices
- Limiting EV's to level 2 and using controllers to limit home peak power
- Meter collars for Solar PV and EVs

We appreciate the opportunity to respond and provide comments.

The following individuals contributed comments: Iain Walker

Sincerely,
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