

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-BSTD-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	2025 Energy Code Rulemaking
<b>TN #:</b>	256187
<b>Document Title:</b>	Robert Alan Hogue Comments - Require 2-way valves for new AC units
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Robert Alan Hogue
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	5/4/2024 11:29:17 AM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	5/6/2024

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Submitted On: 5/4/2024  
Docket Number: 24-BSTD-01*

## **Require 2-way valves for new AC units**

I am a retired mechanical engineer and an active volunteer for the Citizen's Climate Lobby, the Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action team, and the Earth Care team at Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley, CA.

Heat pumps used for heating homes and buildings simply run an A/C unit in reverse. The same equipment is used, but the fluid flows in the other direction. If a 2-way valve is added to the flow circuit, both space heating and cooling can be done with the same equipment. Relatively little cost is added to the A/C unit by including the 2-way valve.

A requirement by the building code to add the valve to all new A/C units will enable most homes and buildings to heat their space with the A/C system in the winter months. The same ducting in the building used for A/C can then be used for heating. Electric heat pumps are vastly superior in energy efficiency to natural gas furnace heating systems. Home and building owners can easily and cost effectively convert from natural gas to electricity and reduce their carbon emissions significantly.

I urge the CEC to add the requirement of 2-way valves in new A/C units to the 2025 state building code. It's truly a "no-brainer".

Rob Hogue