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August 21, 2008

Helen Lam
California Energy Commission
Buildings and Appliances Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-25
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET	
08-HERS-1	
DATE	AUG 21 2008
RECD.	AUG 26 2008

RE: California Home Energy Rating System Program-Docket Number 08-HERS-1

Dear Commissioners,

I am a CHEERS certified HERS rater performing energy compliance certification in the Fresno area. I am concerned about the rules governing the HERS index.

HERS raters are third party independent inspectors. We do not install or sell anything beyond our inspection services. The value of a HERS rater is in our ability to provide information and inspection without bias.

If an inspector has a financial interest in what they are inspecting, the program may lose credibility.

We all know that a windows salesperson is in the business of selling windows. And that an HVAC contractor cannot make a living unless he or she sells his or her product or services. Much of my business is from home owners that do not want a sales pitch and they gladly pay for my third party consulting.

Home owners are tired of sales pitches and allowing a contractor to package their index audit with products or services can open to the door to abuse.

In my opinion, a HERS rater (the independent third party) should be the only persons authorized to perform an index audit and I am asking the commission to consider the implications of allowing a seller of energy efficient products and services (building performance contractors) to do them.

Can a home owner really get absolute honesty when an inspector's profits are on the line? I do not believe so. And for this reason I ask that the HERS index stay with the HERS rater who is, by definition, a financially disinterested third party that makes his or her living as an inspector and not from selling products or services.

Respectfully,

John Richau
HERS Rater