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CEC Docket No. 10-SOPR-1)
 RE: Proposed Regulations for Solar Offset Program)

Testimony of Mike Hodgson)
 California Building Industry Association)

SB 1 – Industry Comments on Final 15-Day Language (December 7, 2010)

The California Building Industry Association (CBIA) is a statewide trade association representing 4,000 member-companies involved in residential and light-commercial construction. CBIA member-companies account for over 85% of the new homes built in California each year.

Our comments today are also supported by the California Business Properties Association.

General Comments:

Overall, CBIA and CBPA support the proposed regulations developed by staff. While we have some technical questions that will follow shortly, we think the staff has adequately addressed the most significant issues raised by industry over the past eight months and we feel these proposed regulations should be adopted by the full commission. And as a side note, we would like to thank the staff for their hard work and patience during the development of these important regulations.

Specific Comments:

Section 2702(c)(1): The CEC is requesting that “*the reported information be endorsed by a **principal or corporate officer** of the seller’s company.*” Industry indicated that such a limitation on who can endorse this technical document might be overly restrictive and that we would prefer an expansion of the sphere of acceptable signatures to those required for the CF-1R and CF-6R energy efficiency compliance forms.

In the Energy Commission Response, staff indicated that it is appropriate for a principal or corporate **representative** of the company to endorse the report. Industry agrees with this position and would respectfully suggest that the CEC provide some manner of written interpretation indicating that a “corporate representative” who is authorized to *formally commit on behalf of the corporation* is considered acceptable.

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Section 2703(a)(1):

Industry needs a definition or interpretation for “prospective home buyers” that links the requirement to actual number of “homes sold”. The SB 1 statute does not define the term “prospective homebuyers” and it was certainly clear during the legislative debate that took place that the intent was to apply this to 20% of the homes in the project.

Depending on the economy, there may well be a high number of parties who show interest in purchasing a specific home; however, there are a finite number of homes in a given project.

Section 2703(b):

After the standards are adopted, industry would like to work with the CEC to see if a simplified alternative can be developed for the proposed “offset solar energy” calculation methodology currently proposed in the regulations. For example; could the CEC allow as an acceptable alternative something along the lines of: $(X)(20\%)(2kW)$ where X is the number of homes in the project?