

DOCKET

10-BSTD-01

DATE

RECD.
AUG 03 2011

Dear Mazi Sharikh;

With the many different concerns over environmental issues and the need to conserve energy in our state, I understand and appreciate the work the CEC is doing in order to make changes to the State of California. I know the ultimate goal is to increase energy efficiency of the Building Energy Efficiency Standards (T-24, Part 6) and to meet AB 32 goals.

The Warm Hearth, in La Mesa, California, is a family owned fireplace business that has been around since 1982. Our staff of 5 educate, sell and install vented hearth products into customers homes on a day to day basis. We have recently completed a renovation of our showroom that includes 27 fireplace units that fit many different types of homes. Selection and quality are important to our customers. Many of them realize that running their old furnace is not necessary if they purchase one of our units, and that zone heating is the most efficient solution in many of their homes.

The Warm Hearth has been a member of the Hearth, Patio and Barbeque Association, Pacific Affiliate, for over 15 years. I have spend the last 7 as a board member of this association and have seen dramatic changes from wood burning fireplaces to the use of gas. While San Diego has not had the Air District regulations that many other counties and cities have encountered, we are still conscious of the energy saving aspects gas provides to customers.

For this particular comment, I am only addressing vented gas heating fireplaces, regulated by both the DOE and under the NAECA standards, and the CEC under the appliance efficiency standards as Direct Heating Appliances.

On behalf of The Warm Hearth and HPBA Pacific, I am requesting that the Standards maintain the residential zone credit for heating, also known as the two-zone modeling credit, outlined in section 4.5.2 of the Residential ACM. Zone heating makes sense financially and for efficiency, and I am asking that the two zone model remain in the compliance software. Heating and Cooling are two separate issues. Heating by living and sleeping zones is behaviorally common.

Sincerely,

Debbie Ewens

Warm Hearth Fireside and Patio

619-465-0890

Cc: Chair Robert Weisenmiller, Ph.d

Commissioner Karen Douglas

Deputy Director Panama Bartholomy

Bruce Wilcox, P.E.