California Energy Commission
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October 18 2012

California Energy Commission
Attention: Docket No. 12-BSTD-2
Dockets Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Proposed Non-Residential Acceptance Contractor/Tester Certification

Dear Commissioners:

My name is KEITH GARCIA, I am an HVAC Journeyperson. I have been in the HVAC System Installation Trade since 1988. I have completed a 4 1/2 year HVAC System/ Sheet Metal Apprenticeship program.

I am writing to support the Energy Commission's proposed regulations requiring certification for persons who perform Title 24 Acceptance Testing and Documentation for HVAC and advanced lighting control. Proper training and certification of individuals performing and documenting acceptance tests is crucial for California to realize its energy efficiency goals. Furthermore, I strongly support the Commission's decision to utilize existing programs to provide this certification rather than completely reinventing the wheel as was done with the HERS program. The TAB certification bodies identified as pre-approved certifiers are well-respected, nationally-renowned programs with rigorous curriculum, hands on training, and quality controls. TAB technicians are already available throughout the state and no other certifications exist that provide the training expertise and quality control necessary to ensure that HVAC systems actually perform as required under Title 24. The California Green Building Code already requires small commercial buildings to balance their HVAC systems in accordance with TABB, AABC or NEBB procedures, so this requirement will ensure consistency with current practices.

I also strongly support the pre-approval of existing TABB, NEBB and AABC contractors and technicians to perform these acceptance tests. These contractors and technicians should be rewarded for having invested in this advanced training before such training was even a requirement under Title 24. Moreover, they currently are the only technicians with verifiable training and experience in the skills and knowledge necessary to ensure competent testing, adjusting and balancing of commercial HVAC systems.

I also support the requirement for certification of acceptance test technician employers in order to ensure a high level of accountability and quality control. Certification of employers ensures appropriate supervision and support for the certified acceptance test technicians. By putting the employer's certification on the line in addition to the certified technician, pressure on the technician to quickly test and pass a system is reduced and it is more likely that the technician will be provided sufficient equipment, resources and time to correctly perform the acceptance test.

Sincerely,

Keith Garcia