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From: Brian Silverthorn [<mailto:brian@myonlinebusinessadviser.com>]
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 3:07 PM
To: MacDonald, Rachel@Energy
Subject: HERS rater controversy

Hi Rachel,

I'm sending this email to express my opinion regarding the need for HERS Raters to remain independent 3rd party inspectors. I think that HERS raters who offer to pull permits for HVAC contractors, or any other contractor, as an incentive for or in exchange for performing the tests on the jobs for which the permits were pulled negates the rater's 3rd party status.

Some of my clients are builders, architects and raters involved in the energy efficiency business. In addition, I had an agreement in the past to provide training to people who were interested in participating in energy efficiency programs. Because of my work I have an interest in and knowledge of energy efficiency. I consider it important that individuals and businesses providing testing and verification services remain completely independent from the contractors who hire them.

Raters pulling permits for contractors, in my opinion, constitutes a relationship that jeopardizes that independence. I believe the HERS Rater Conflict of Interest rules should be strictly interpreted and enforced to eliminate any appearance of impropriety regarding 3rd party status.

Do good so you can do well,
Brian



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