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California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-31
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket # 10-BSTD-01 "Proposals For Certification of Acceptance Testing Field Technicians For Mechanical Systems and Lighting Controls"

Dear Commissioners:

As a contracting company serving exclusively the commercial HVAC market for forty years (C-10, 20, 43), we **strongly oppose** the narrow interpretation of the CPUC's Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the California Local Unions of Sheet Metal Workers (Sheet Metal Workers).

We are very supportive of any attempt to raise the level of knowledge, skill, craftsmanship and professionalism in our industry. Proper implementation of the Strategic Plan will certainly require highly trained and competent individuals who are able to meet continually higher levels of competence. But we challenge the Commissioners to move beyond certification by "brand name" (exclusively IBEW, AABC, NEBB & TABB) and truly raise the bar to require competency-based certification where qualified professionals, regardless of provenance, are required to demonstrate their knowledge and skills based on an objective testing process that evaluates the individual's ability to properly implement the acceptance testing standards you have established.

In California, lawyers are allowed to practice because they qualify by passing the bar exam and not based on where they got their law degree. The same goes for MDs, CPAs, PEs and many other professions. For some remarkable reason the IBEW and Sheet Metal Workers unions believe that only their "certification" should be the standard by which the industry is measured. This defies logic and common sense and is nothing more than a brazen attempt to restrain trade. We have no doubt that the net result will be:

- the exclusion of many currently qualified individuals from performing the work;
- an increase in costs of compliance with state standards; and
- limit the Commission's effectiveness in rapidly and properly implementing its prescribed standards.

There are many competent and qualified organizations ready and willing to assist in establishing data-driven competency standards that will define the knowledge and skills required to perform proper acceptance testing in mechanical systems and lighting controls. We are sure that included among these are SMACNA, ACCA, ASHRAE, ACTA, NATE as well as IBEW and the SMW locals. True competence is not the exclusive purview of one, or just a few, interested parties.

We urge the Commissioners to raise the bar of competency in our industry, establish the level objectively and measure it consistently. Those who are true craftsmen and professionals will embrace higher standards wholeheartedly and will embrace the opportunity to prove their competence. Any individual who can meet those objective competency standards should be allowed to perform the acceptance testing for mechanical systems and lighting controls. We oppose this proposal on the grounds that it does not set the bar high enough.

Yours respectfully,

Ruzwa F. Cooper

Ruzwa F. Cooper
President