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**California Efficiency + Demand Management Council Oral Testimony
to the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee Hearing Regarding
AB 699**

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Good afternoon Chair Holden and members of the Committee. My name is Greg Wikler and I am the Executive Director of the California Efficiency + Demand Management Council. The Council, established in 2009, is a statewide trade association of non-utility companies that provide energy efficiency and demand response products and services throughout California. Our 70+ members include companies and organizations who employ a large portion of California's more than 320,000 efficiency and demand management workforce.

We are proud to be cosponsors of AB 699 and thank Assemblymember Salas and his staff for their leadership. We appreciate the time and thought you and the committee staff have put into the amendments for this bill.

AB 699 seeks to expand and modernize the CPUC's current Energy Savings Assistance or ESA program by enabling low-income consumers to be equipped with demand-responsive technologies such as smart thermostats. This in turn will allow these consumers to participate and receive financial incentives in the state's newly expanding demand response programs aimed at ensuring electric grid stability during anticipated power shortfalls brought about by climate change and prolonged heat storms.

This modernization makes certain that these advanced smart technologies are accessible – and equitable – in their implementation, and that everyone can financially benefit from the flexible capacity, and greater reliability they bring to the system, while at the same time lowering carbon emissions and improving air quality in the communities which are suffering the most.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to speak today and I'm available to answer any questions. I respectfully ask for an AYE vote.