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California Efficiency + Demand Management Council Oral Testimony to the Assembly Judiciary Committee Hearing Regarding SB 1026

June 14, 2022

Chair Stone and Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee:

My name is Greg Wikler and I am the Executive Director of the California Energy Efficiency and Demand Management Council. I'm here in support of Senate Bill 1026.

The Council is a non-utility trade association representing more than 50 companies that design, implement, maintain and evaluate energy efficiency and demand response and employ thousands of people who play an important role in California's economy. Recent estimates put that number at more than 300,000 Californians that are employed in the industry that we represent.

SB 1026 would continue California's leadership in energy efficiency by giving prospective residential housing renters useful information on the energy efficiency and potential energy costs of a property before signing a lease. The bill would require the California Energy Commission to create an energy efficiency disclosure form for rental units, required at the time of signing of a lease, and establish an energy efficiency standard to further inform renters as they make housing choices. These actions will help move the rental market segment toward greater levels of energy efficiency, lowering energy bills and furthering the State's clean energy goals. That is a good thing, given this segment has historically not achieved its significant energy efficiency potential.

The rental market has historically been disadvantaged in achieving its significant energy efficiency potential. We applaud Senator Wieckowski and his team for recognizing this concern and moving this important legislation through the process. SB 1026 will help open the rental market to greater energy efficiency potential by increasing tenants' access to energy efficiency information. This bill will go a long way toward realizing much of this potential and thus helping California achieve its ambitious carbon reduction goals.

For these reasons, I encourage your "aye" vote. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak in support of SB 1026.