



REWIRING  
AMERICA



January 8th, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Chair  
Senate Local Government Committee  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 222 (Wiener) - Heat Pump Permitting - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Durazo,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to you to express our support for SB 222 (Wiener), the Heat Pump Access Act, which will modernize permitting for heat pump installations, reducing cost and hassle for contractors and consumers alike.

California has led the nation in establishing some of the most ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and combat climate change. California's climate action plan was praised globally for its goal of achieving net neutrality by 2045, which would require slashing emissions by 85 percent, and air pollution by 71 percent. To keep pace in achieving these laudable emissions targets, California will need to convert at least 20% of existing building stock to electric appliances and install 6 million heat pumps across the state by 2030. In the absence of federal leadership on climate, these goals are more important than ever.

Additionally, heat pump installations are critical for helping households access the cooling and air filtration they need to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and poor air quality. Last summer was Earth's hottest on record. California averages 35 dangerous heat days per year. By 2050, it's expected this will rise to almost 50 dangerous days per year. However, more than a quarter of Californians currently lack cooling through very efficient, zero-emission appliances like heat pumps. In increasingly sweltering Los Angeles, 32% of residents still lack access to air conditioning at home — that's 1.26 million people in L.A. alone.

Heat pumps are highly efficient electric appliances with the capability to provide both heating and cooling in one device. Due to both increasing severity of extreme heat events, as well as the need to electrify buildings in order to meet our climate goals, California has dedicated hundreds of millions of dollars to incentive programs such as TECH Clean California and the Equitable Building Decarbonization program to support consumer adoption of heat pumps statewide. These public rebate and direct install programs require applicants to secure permits for heat pump installations to ensure work is completed according to state building codes and safety standards.

Unfortunately, interviews with heat pump installers point to a number of barriers at the local level to securing permits to install heat pump equipment, including long inspection wait times, local architectural requirements, wide variations in requirements across jurisdictions, and the need to

obtain multiple permit types for a water heater installation. The added cost of securing a permit can range from \$50 to several thousand, depending on the jurisdiction and its requirements.

SB 222, the Heat Pump Access Act, takes a comprehensive approach to standardizing the permitting process for heat pump installations statewide, reducing time constraints and lowering costs for contractors and consumers alike. SB 222 will require jurisdictions to put in place an automated permitting system for simple installations; establish guardrails around burdensome setback and noise limitations; require maximum one permit for heat pump installations; and prohibit HOAs from imposing architectural review standards that will prevent clean appliance adoption.

The streamlined process outlined under the Heat Pump Access Act will provide a more seamless experience for the residents and contractors leading the way in the clean energy transition, and maximize the impact of state dollars helping Californians access the cooling and clean air benefits of heat pumps. For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 222.

Sincerely,

David Diaz  
Executive Director  
ActiveSVG

Shannon Olivieri Hovis  
Chief Strategy Officer  
California Environmental Voters

Bruce Hodge  
Founder, Chair  
Carbon Free Palo Alto  
& Chair, Carbon Free Silicon Valley

Pete Marsh  
Chapter Leader  
Citizens Climate Lobby Long Beach

Melanie Colburn  
President  
ClimaBridge

Janet Cox  
CEO  
Climate Action California

Matthew Vespa  
Senior Attorney  
Earthjustice

Ellie Cohen  
CEO  
The Climate Center

Ashley McClure  
Executive Director  
Climate Health Now Action Fund

Enrique Huerta  
Senior Director, Policy + Legislation  
Climate Resolve

Chandra Apperson  
Policy Director  
Efficiency First California

Tony Sirna  
Senior Policy Lead, Buildings  
Evergreen Action

Linda Hutchins-Knowles  
Co-Founder

Ericka Flores  
Clean Energy & Equity Advocate

Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

Cooper Marcus  
CEO & Chief Quitter  
QuitCarbon

Joel Ervice  
Associate Director  
Regional Asthma Management & Prevention  
(RAMP)

Rebecca Curry  
Sr. Manager, Western Regional Policy  
Rewiring America

Susan Green  
Steering Committee Member  
SF Climate Emergency Coalition

Ben Stapleton  
Executive Director  
US Green Building Council California

Rosie Yacoub  
Lead, Electrification  
350 Sacramento

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Sean Armstrong  
Principal  
Redwood Energy

Chance Cutrano  
Director of Programs  
Resource Renewal Institute

Kelly Lyndon  
Co-Chair  
San Diego Building Electrification Coalition

Timothy Burroughs  
Executive Director  
StopWaste

Daniel Chandler  
Steering Committee Member  
350 Humboldt

