



Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today

1791 Tullie Circle, NE ▪ Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2305 ▪ Tel 404.636.8400 ▪ Fax 404.321.5478 ▪ <http://www.ashrae.org>

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Chairman
Environment and Climate Change
Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus
Ranking Member
Environment and Climate Change
Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairman Tonko, and Ranking Member Shimkus:

Thank you for your consideration of H.R. 5544, the “Promoting American Innovation and Manufacturing Leadership Act of 2020,” and to the subcommittee for holding a hearing on this legislation on January 14. The hearing provided an avenue for a robust discussion and allowed members of the committee to ask important questions of witnesses.

ASHRAE has been in existence for 125 years, and its more than 57,000 members focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration, sustainability, and safety. ASHRAE conducts independent research that informs our ANSI-accredited standards development process, which has produced more than 200 standards and guidelines.

One of the matters that was raised during the hearing concerned the safety of a new type of refrigerants classified as “A2L” refrigerants. This classification was made based on ASHRAE Standard 34-2019, *Designation and Safety Classification of Refrigerants*, which describes naming conventions for refrigerants and assigns safety classifications based on toxicity and flammability data. ASHRAE also has a safety standard for refrigerants: Standard 15-2019, *Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems*. ASHRAE Standard 15 establishes safeguards for life, limb, health and property and prescribes safety requirements. It is meant to protect people and property near refrigeration facilities. The updated 2019 standard includes changes to address the non-toxic, lower flammability class of refrigerants (A2Ls), including important restrictions concerning mixing refrigerants from different classes.

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We would be happy to answer any further questions you might have on this topic. If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact either of us, or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darryl Boyce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Darryl Boyce, P. Eng., FASHRAE
ASHRAE President, SY2019-20

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff H. Littleton". The signature is cursive and includes a horizontal line at the end.

Jeff H. Littleton
Executive Vice President