



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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2021-2022 ASHRAE President

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March 25, 2022

Senator Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, & Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building 254
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, & Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building 254
Washington, DC 20510

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
Science, Space, & Technology
Rayburn House Office Building 2321
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
Science, Space, & Technology
Rayburn House Office Building 2321
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Standards Development in the Innovation Bill

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell, Ranking Member Wicker, Chairwoman Johnson, and Ranking Member Lucas

Thank you for moving important legislation through your committees concerning advanced technologies and international trade. In anticipation of a conference committee being named to address differences between H.R. 4521 *America COMPETES Act of 2022*, and S. 1260, *United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021*, we would like to call your attention to an important provision to advance international standards development.

Today, anyone is able to conduct business anywhere in the world, creating a delicate web of international networks and stressing the importance of aligning policies and standards. As globalization continues to thrive and technology develops at extraordinary rates, we will not only have to update existing standards, but also create new ones. While the America COMPETES Act (H.R. 4521) aims to modernize America's research infrastructure, both the

rate and impact of modernization will be shaped by the creation of standards, as well as who develops them. To meet this need, we request the final version of this bill contain *Sec. 10245. International Standards Development*, a provision not included in the United States Innovation and Competition Act (S. 1260).

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a technical society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 51,000 individual members worldwide focus on environmental emissions, building systems, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, refrigeration and sustainability. ASHRAE has 111 active standards and guideline project committees, addressing indoor air quality, thermal comfort, energy conservation in buildings, zero energy, zero carbon, risk management for building water systems, and the designation and safety classification of refrigerants. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

Standards development organizations (SDOs) are dedicated to working collaboratively to establish appropriate, science-backed standards invaluable to academia and business alike. The necessity of cooperation among stakeholders makes standards development a model for public-private partnerships. For example, ASHRAE writes voluntary consensus-based standards in its fields of expertise to guide industry in the delivery of goods and services to the public. ASHRAE's consensus standards are developed through participation of any and all interested and affected stakeholders creating a transparent, balanced, and robust standards setting process. The COMPETES Act follows a similar framework for standards development in *Sec. 10245(d) Reaffirming the Importance of Voluntary Consensus-based International Standards Bodies* which highlights the tenets of transparency, openness, impartiality, consensus, effectiveness, relevance, coherence and development dimension.

ASHRAE appreciates the inclusion of *Sec. 10248. Standards Development Organization Grant*, but it is severely limited by *Sec. 10248(c) Purposes* which restricts grant eligibility to “develop, approve, disseminate, maintain, and review **forensic science** voluntary consensus standards and best practices...[emphasis added].” The COMPETES Act aspires to create opportunities for manufacturing, pre-eminence in technology, and economic strength, covering a full spectrum of scientific fields that depend on standards. To meet the forthcoming need for standard development, consideration should be given to expanding eligibility to a broader spectrum of areas, and not just limit such standards development to forensic science standards.

ASHRAE's standards development process is thorough, justifying our status as one of only six standards-developing organizations in the U.S. that can self-certify its standards have followed procedures established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Furthermore, ASHRAE facilitates a robust research program to develop both timely technical and educational information for the development of standards and guidelines. ASHRAE has a history of collaborating with government agencies to conduct important research, and we continue to serve as a resource for all standards development.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and please do not hesitate to contact me

with any questions or for more information, or have your staff contact
GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael CA Schwedler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Michael CA (Mick) Schwedler, P.E., Fellow ASHRAE, LEED AP
2021-2022 ASHRAE President