



March 13, 2024

Representative Michael Moran  
Majority Leader, Massachusetts House of Representatives  
24 Beacon St., Room 343  
Boston, MA, 02133

Senator Cynthia Stone Creem  
Majority Leader, Massachusetts Senate  
24 Beacon St., Room 312-A  
Boston, MA, 02133

**RE: Support Passage of HB 2383 (Murphy)**

Dear Leaders Moran and Creem:

The undersigned broad coalition of industry and environmental stakeholders supports timely passage of House Bill 2383, sponsored by Representative Jamie Murphy. This legislation clarifies that building codes in Massachusetts do not prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant already approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The federal American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020 (AIM Act) is phasing down the production and import of a class of chemicals known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are primarily used as refrigerants in air conditioners and refrigeration, along with other applications, such as foams, solvents, and fire suppressants. The EPA is implementing the AIM Act to guide a market- and consumer-friendly transition to climate-friendly and innovative substitutes, in accordance with ASHRAE's safety and classification standards for refrigerants.

The climate benefits of AIM Act implementation are considerable. Because many HFCs are thousands of times more damaging than carbon dioxide at warming the planet, the transition away from HFCs will reduce U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by approximately 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent by 2036. Globally, the AIM Act assures U.S. compliance with the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which phases down HFCs worldwide and avoids up to 0.5 degrees (C) of projected warming by year 2100.

To date, more than 45 states, including all states in New England and the Mid-Atlantic, have made the necessary changes to their state building codes via legislation or regulatory code. The challenge we are facing is that a small number of state building codes do not currently allow the use of these substitute refrigerants, including building codes in Massachusetts. Industry and environmental allies are working diligently to amend state building codes to allow for these new refrigerants and avoid HVACR marketplace disruptions as the EPA implements the AIM Act.

HB 2383 reduces the risk of equipment shortages in Massachusetts, but it must be passed this session. The legislation clarifies that any HFC substitute that has already been approved by EPA may be used in air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. It does not make any other change to state law; it simply removes a barrier to ensure Massachusetts consumers and businesses enjoy uninterrupted access to the latest HVACR equipment, with the most advanced and climate-friendly technologies available.

We urge immediate passage of HB 2383 to ensure continued supply of critical HVACR equipment to the state of Massachusetts and to ensure that the transition to alternate refrigerants is safe and effective. We look forward to continuing to work with the Massachusetts legislature to pass this urgent fix and ensure we head off a critical and imminent supply issue for HVACR equipment in Massachusetts.

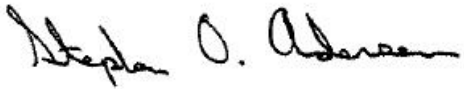
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samantha M. Slater".

Samantha Slater  
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs  
Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)



Dr. Richie Kaur  
Non-CO<sub>2</sub> Climate Pollution Reduction Advocate  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)



Dr. Stephen O. Andersen  
Director of Research  
Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD)



Christina Starr  
Senior Manager, Climate  
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)



Danielle Wright  
Executive Director  
North American Sustainable Refrigeration Council (NASRC)



Ginger Scoggins  
President  
The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)



Todd Titus  
Director of State and Public Affairs  
Heating, Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International (HARDI)



Mark Valentini  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association

CC: Members, Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security  
Governor Maura Healey, Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Commissioner Bonnie Heiple, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection