



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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2021-2022 ASHRAE President

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April 15, 2022

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
U.S. House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Rayburn House Office Building 2362-B
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Rayburn House Office Building 2362-B
Washington, DC 20515

Re: FY23 Appropriations Support

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson,

As you draft the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee budget for fiscal year 2023, we wanted to bring your attention to specific heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) provisions of the President's Budget. ASHRAE is a leading technical society for sustainable technology for the built environment and our more than 50,000 individual members worldwide provide expertise on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, refrigeration and sustainability.

The HVACR industry is an often-overlooked source of economic activity. In the United States, the HVACR industry employs 1.3 million people and generates \$256 billion in annual economic activity. This highly skilled workforce is educated through public and private universities, community colleges, trade schools, apprenticeships, and career and technical education programs. In recent years, the HVACR workforce has been depleted and career experts are retiring without suitable replacement candidates. There needs to be a commitment to expanding existing programs and developing new training programs to establish a diverse network of skilled HVACR engineers. We support the President's commitment to workforce development activities through a substantial funding request of **\$392 million for the Building Technologies**

Office, including **\$45 million for the Building Energy Codes program**, and we encourage robust funding for the Commercial Building Integration and Residential Buildings Integration programs.

The Federal Energy Management Program allows the government to act as an example for energy and water efficiency projects by funding the Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies (AFFECT). President Biden has set the laudable goal of a net-zero emissions federal building portfolio by 2045 and to achieve this goal we support the President's request of **\$170 million for the Federal Energy Management Program** and we urge dedicated funds for updating and replacing existing HVACR systems in federal buildings.

Building codes and standards can maximize the benefits of HVACR upgrades by establishing science-backed metrics and performance criteria that advance energy efficiency and a healthy indoor environment. Presently, many states rely outdated building codes and standards. For example, only five states are using the most recent version of ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019¹, despite their legal requirement to adopt up-to-date versions of this standard². We support the President's request of **\$727 million for the State and Community Energy Programs**, including **\$70 million for the State Energy Program**, and we urge the committee to consider methods to bring State building codes and standards up to date using the following report language:

“The Committee directs the State Energy Program to remind each State Energy Office that each State is required to review, adopt and certify the most recently revised and improved building standards and codes within 2 years of the Secretary determining such revisions would improve energy efficiency in commercial buildings, according to Sec. 304 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (Public Law 94-385), as amended”

The importance of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) cannot be overstated. In addition to supporting the largest network of energy retrofit providers, WAP directs its effort to low-income households. To meet the President's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, communities of all socioeconomic statuses must be considered. We appreciate the President's request of **\$502 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program** to facilitate the weatherization of 50,000 homes.

Engineers, scientist, academics, researchers, government agencies and many others rely on accurate data for fact-based decision making. The Energy Information Agency provides such data through the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey and the Residential

¹ ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019: Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings

² Sec. 304 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (Public Law 94-385), as amended

Buildings Energy Consumption Survey. We applaud the President's request of **\$144 million for the Energy Information Administration** to continue their data collection, analysis, and reporting on energy use.

As an organization of dedicated HVACR engineers, we hope you will sincerely consider our recommendations to bolster the resilience, health and sustainability of our nation's built environment. We are ready to offer our support, knowledge, and resources to answer technical questions concerning the funding and support of the built environment. Please contact me with any questions or have your staff contact ASHRAE's government affairs staff at GovAffairs@ASHRAE.org. Thank you again for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael CA Schwedler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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