



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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Ginger Scoggins
2023-2024 ASHRAE President

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April 30, 2024

The Honorable Alana DiMario
Chair
Committee on Environment and Agriculture
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

Sent via email to: sen-dimario@rilegislature.gov

RE: SB 2952, "Building Decarbonization Act of 2024"

Dear Chair DiMario:

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 53,000 members, including nearly 100 in Rhode Island, focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

We are writing to you regarding SB 2952, "Building Decarbonization Act of 2024." This bill would, among other provisions, establish a building performance standard for certain large buildings. **ASHRAE supports the provision in this bill that would establish a Building Performance Standard for covered buildings, and suggests the use of ASHRAE standards and resources to help accomplish this goal.**

ASHRAE stands at the forefront in supplying standards, guidance, and education on the design, manufacturing, installation, and operation of building systems. These resources can also provide governments with a technical foundation for building performance standards, in particular **ANSI/ASHRAE/IES 100-2024, *Energy and Emissions Building Performance Standard for Existing Buildings***. This standard establishes greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption performance levels for existing buildings, along with compliance requirements to improve energy efficiency and reduce the GHG emissions of existing buildings. As such, the standard provides a technical basis for setting building performance standards and policies and

procedures to enforce building performance policies and to improve, maintain, manage and monitor the energy efficient operation of buildings.

Additional ASHRAE resources that are relevant to this effort include:

- Standard 105, *Standard Methods for Determining, Expressing and Comparing Building Energy Performance and Greenhouse Gas Emissions*
- Standard 211, *Standard for Commercial Building Energy Audits*
- Standard 228, *Standard Method of Evaluating Zero Net Energy and Zero Net Carbon Building Performance*
- Proposed Standard 240P, *Evaluating Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and Carbon Emissions in Building Design, Construction and Operation*
- Multiple technical resource guides developed by ASHRAE's Task Force for Building Decarbonization at <https://www.ashrae.org/about/ashrae-task-force-for-building-decarbonization>

In addition, ASHRAE members can offer subject matter expertise to the Green Building Advisory Committee that would be tasked with advising the relevant state agencies implementing the proposed Building Performance Standard requirements. ASHRAE is able to provide resources such as technical assistance and training courses to assist government agencies throughout the implementation process.

Again, ASHRAE supports the provision in this bill establishing Building Performance Standards, and recommends utilizing ASHRAE standards, guidance and resources to help achieve this goal. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email GovAffairs@ashrae.org. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ginger Scoggins', written in a cursive style.

Ginger Scoggins
ASHRAE President