



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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2020-2021 ASHRAE President

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March 8, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

On behalf of ASHRAE, I would like to extend our congratulations on your confirmation as the U.S. Secretary of Energy. As you work to develop “solutions to tackle our climate emergency and to create healthy, safe, and thriving communities,” which you described in your *Message to America*, ASHRAE offers its support to you and the department with achieving those goals.

Founded in 1894, ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 55,000 members focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Our organization also works on research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education which has made us a dependable partner to the Department of Energy (DOE).

In 1975, ASHRAE developed Standard 90-75, "*Energy Conservation in New Building Design*" which had a major impact on U.S. building codes and energy efficiency in the built environment. Standard 90 has since evolved into separate standards for commercial buildings (Standard 90.1), residential (Standard 90.2), and data centers (Standard 90.4). When DOE was formed in the late 1970s, the department called upon ASHRAE to help implement its “Emergency Building Temperature Restrictions” program which focused on space heating, space cooling, and hot water. ASHRAE has continued to collaborate with DOE to improve energy efficiency and advance zero-energy buildings across the United States. This has been done through joint research projects, developing certifications approved by the DOE’s Better Building Initiative, and providing speakers for DOE webinars on topics such as the impact of COVID-19 on buildings. ASHRAE has also worked with DOE to publish Advanced Energy Design Guides (AEDGs), and we look forward to more zero energy guides being published.

ASHRAE and DOE are also connected through federal statutes, including the Energy Conservation and Production Act (ECPA), which sets the basis for state energy codes using Standard 90.1 for commercial buildings. We look forward to working with the Building Energy Codes Program to provide states with

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the support needed for effective implementation of this standard. DOE's important work in establishing equipment and appliance standards under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act requires some equipment standards to be based on Standard 90.1. We are proud of this partnership which provides tremendous energy savings as well as operational costs.

Additionally, ASHRAE and DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) that lasts through May 22, 2022. The MoU aims to improve the efficient use of energy, building resiliency, and building performance, including for occupants. We are looking forward to fulfilling our obligations under the MoU and updating it as necessary to better align with your goals.

We are thankful for our strong relationship with DOE and hope to continue to build on these commitments under your leadership. If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact ASHRAE's government affairs office at GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E." in a cursive style.

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