



Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today

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Ginger Scoggins
2023-2024 ASHRAE President

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March 26, 2024

The Honorable Senator Tom Davis
Chair
Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, and Industry
1100 Gervais St,
Columbia, SC 29208

Letter sent via email to: juliedeschamps@scsenate.gov

Re: SC S 1171 titled “2021 International Energy Conservation Code”

Dear Chair Davis:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, to support South Carolina Senate Bill 1171 that sits before you in the Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, and Industry. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global professional society of more than 54,000 members, including over 450 in South Carolina, that focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration, and workforce development. Through our research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

ASHRAE supports the goals of SC S 1171, which would make significant updates to the state's commercial energy code to the 2021 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The 2021 edition of the IECC encompasses the 2019 edition of ASHRAE Standard 90.1, [Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings](#). ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, has been the benchmark for commercial building energy codes in the United States and a key basis for codes and standards around the world for more than 35 years. As a compliance pathway in the IECC, builders and developers can use ASHRAE Standard 90.1 to demonstrate compliance with the IECC requirements. ASHRAE Standard 90.1 is an indispensable reference for engineers and other professionals involved in design of buildings and building systems. Updating to the 2019 edition of Standard 90.1 by adopting the 2021 IECC would allow the state to benefit from the significant improvements made to the standard from previous editions.

Moving to ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019 from the 2007 edition is cost-effective for South Carolina. Over the period of 2004-2019, ASHRAE Standard 90.1 improved energy performance improved by at least 36%. South Carolina currently uses the 2009 edition of the IECC, which provides

for a compliance pathway using the 2007 edition of ASHRAE Standard 90.1. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has published studies on the costs and benefits of South Carolina updating from the 2010 edition of 90.1 onward, so improving from the 2007 edition would only provide greater benefits. Based on the DOE analysis, updating to a modern commercial energy code in South Carolina would:

- Reduce energy costs.
- Decrease CO₂ emissions by thousands of metric tons.
- Return millions of dollars to South Carolina's economy in the form of lower utility bills.
- Create hundreds of jobs.
- Offer an immediate or near immediate payback period; energy codes are cost effective!

Again, we support the goals of SC S 1171: to update the state to the most recent edition of the International Energy Conservation Code and in so doing, allow for the use of ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019 as a compliance pathway. We urge swift passage of this legislation, as it would benefit the people of South Carolina and result in a more sustainable and resilient built environment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Thank you for your work to improve the built environment and improve the lives of South Carolinian residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ginger Scoggins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ginger Scoggins
ASHRAE President