



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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2021-2022 ASHRAE President

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February 24, 2022

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair
The Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Maryland House of Delegates
House Committee on Environment and Transportation
6 Bladen Street, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 831

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Committee Members:

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 51,000 members 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 House Bill 831, "*Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings*". The bill establishes emissions standards for certain commercial and residential buildings; develops plans for building retrofits; establishes a Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force; and aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **We would like to offer ASHRAE's assistance in addressing technical challenges related to these requirements, including building decarbonization.**

ASHRAE is committed to leading, serving, and providing professionals in the buildings industry with the resources and knowledge to drive innovative and strategic improvements in our built environment. This technical expertise can be used in diverse communities across our planet which face varying challenges, including cold climates, humid conditions, and different jurisdictional requirements. As states establish new goals and requirements regarding building decarbonization, ASHRAE continues to provide unbiased technical resources to respond to evolving needs of the building industry.

In addition to our Society's published technical resources, ASHRAE is also able to provide assistance through the expertise of our members. According to Section 2-1603 (B)(11)(IV) of the bill, the proposed Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force would include "one

representative who is a mechanical, electrical, or plumbing engineer or commissioning agent with experience in modifying or replacing systems in order to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions”. Many of ASHRAE’s membership, which includes over 1,100 members in the state of Maryland, would qualify as experts to serve in that specific capacity on the Task Force proposed in this bill. ASHRAE’s members include engineers with the relevant experience and certifications, as well as knowledge of ASHRAE standards and guidelines, to provide recommendations on strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector. We hope that ASHRAE experts will be considered for participation on the Task Force and ASHRAE would be happy to provide a list of experts and their qualifications.

Thank you for considering our offer to provide technical guidance, as well as the expertise of our membership, to assist with the implementation of these proposed requirements. 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 black ink that reads "Mick Schwedler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael CA (Mick) Schwedler, P.E., Fellow ASHRAE, LEED AP
2021-22 ASHRAE President