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Built Environment Today

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2020-2021 ASHRAE President

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May 25, 2021

The Honorable Pat McElraft  
The Honorable Larry Yarborough  
Chairs  
House Committee on Environment  
300 N. Salisbury St  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

**Letter Sent Via Email to:** [Pat.McElraft@ncleg.gov](mailto:Pat.McElraft@ncleg.gov)

RE: House Bill 909

Dear Chairs McElraft and Yarborough, 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 50,000 members, including about 1,100 in North Carolina, 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 909, "*Legionnaires' Disease Prevention Act.*" We appreciate the inclusion of ASHRAE's Standard 188-2018, Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems, in the proposed requirements for water management plans in covered buildings. Managing water systems to minimize the risk of contamination from Legionella is essential. We strongly advise that any requirements are consistent with the totality of ASHRAE Standard 188, as taking only certain portions from it could impair its effectiveness and potentially put building occupants at risk.

We also recommend the use of ASHRAE Guideline 12-2020, Managing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems, which provides detailed guidance for water management program teams to develop the necessary elements of an effective water management plan. Proper management and maintenance of building water systems can be a particularly important aspect of reopening buildings following the COVID-19 pandemic and are sometimes overlooked.

ASHRAE formed an Epidemic Task Force (ETF) in March 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic in building-related matters and has developed guidance on building reopening related to

ventilation, filtration, air cleaning, and water systems for several building types and operational conditions. Water systems are specifically included in ASHRAE's guidance to minimize the risk of legionellosis associated with water systems after building reopening. Additional guidance, answers to frequently asked questions, and other resources on the coronavirus and the built environment can be found at [www.ashrae.org/covid19](http://www.ashrae.org/covid19).

Again, we appreciate the inclusion of ASHRAE Standard 188-2018 in this bill and hope your committee will consider further improving the bill by incorporating the additional ASHRAE guidance on water systems as described above. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email [GovAffairs@ashrae.org](mailto: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 "Charles E. Gullledge III, PE". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "G".

Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E., FASHRAE, HBDP, LEED AP  
2020-21 ASHRAE President

cc: The Honorable Brian Turner  
House Committee on Environment