Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today

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2023-2024 ASHRAE President

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The Honorable Stephanie L. Hansen
Chair
Senate Environment, Energy and Transportation Committee
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover DE, 19901

Sent via email to: Anna.Shields@Delaware.gov

Re: Senate Bill 289, "Relating to Energy Conservation"

Dear Chair Hansen 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 54,000 members, including nearly 100 in Delaware, 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 in support of DE SB 289, relating to energy conservation. We appreciate that the state requires the "latest available standard of ASHRAE" for commercial buildings, which is currently the 2022 edition of Standard 90.1. We also support jurisdictions having the ability to go beyond the minimum requirements and adopt stretch codes that are based on ASHRAE standards. Stretch codes are an effective way to deliver sustainable, resilient, high-performing buildings. This in turn will help Delaware meet its climate goals, lower greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy use, and lower water waste.

We would also like to suggest the following ASHRAE standards that can be incorporated into stretch or reach codes:

- ASHRAE Standard 189.1-2020, *Standard for the Design of High Performance Green Buildings:*
  This standard is the basis for the International Green Construction Code, or IgCC, which was developed in conjunction with the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES), the International Code Council (ICC) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). This standard is the first code-intended commercial green building standard in

the U.S. It provides minimum requirements for the siting, design, construction, commissioning, and plans for operation of high-performance green buildings by focusing on reducing emissions, improving water conservation and indoor air quality, and enhancing the resilience of the built environment. To date, the IgCC has already been adopted in 14 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

- ANSI/ASHRAE/IES 90.2-2018, *Energy-Efficient Design of Low-Rise Residential Buildings:*
  This standard establishes whole-building energy performance requirements for energy efficient residential buildings. The 2018 edition, in particular, is intended to be a leadership standard that can be adopted as a stretch code to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It presents a cost-effective approach to residential building energy performance. Standard 90.2 also delivers improvements to indoor air quality and health by incorporating ASHRAE Standard 62.2, Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Residential Buildings.

Again, we support giving local jurisdictions the ability to adopt stretch or reach codes to improve building performance, and suggest the above ASHRAE standards as the best available methods for helping jurisdictions meet their energy and emissions reductions goals. Subsequently, we recommend the swift passage of DE SB 289. 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 in Delaware.

Sincerely,

Ginger Scoggins
ASHRAE President