

Comments Only Testimony on NE LB 163 to the NE Committee on Natural Resources

[Personal introduction by Jeff McCaslin]

I am speaking on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. We are a professional and technical society of more than 54,000 members dedicated to energy efficiency, indoor air quality, resiliency, and sustainability in the built environment. Through our Society's research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's global built environment today. As one of the premier subject matter experts on the built environment, and on behalf of our nearly 400 members in the state of Nebraska, we wish to provide comments on NE LB 163 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

NE LB 163 would, if passed, create an Office of Climate Action in the Department of Environment and Energy. The new office would be mandated to work with stakeholders to enhance the provision of technical support, education and skills related to combating climate change in Nebraska. ASHRAE is one such stakeholder.

We wish to communicate to the committee that ASHRAE will make itself available as a technical resource to the Office of Climate Action if such an office is created. This legislation explicitly calls for stakeholder engagement, and we wish to convey that stakeholders are standing by. We want to proactively make sure the committee knows that ASHRAE is willing to serve you individually, this committee, the legislature, and potentially the Office of Climate Action, and that we can contribute subject matter expertise related to HVAC and the built environment.

ASHRAE produces standards, guidelines and training that would be beneficial to Nebraska, including standards on energy efficiency, building performance benchmarking, energy audits, and wildfire smoke protection. We would be happy to share more information about these resources, and the expertise that went into creating these resources with you.

We are at your disposal to answer any questions, and to address any comments or concerns you might have. We also wish to make ourselves available to you at any time if you find yourself in need of subject matter expertise on building sciences and the built environment. We can be reached at GovAffairs@ashrae.org. On behalf of our 54,000 members worldwide and our nearly 400 members in NE, thank you for your consideration of our comments.