



Shaping Tomorrow's  
Built Environment Today

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Ginger Scoggins  
2023-2024 ASHRAE President

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January 29, 2024

The Honorable Senator Brian Feldman, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Letter sent via email to:  
[Brian.Feldman@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Brian.Feldman@senate.state.md.us)  
[Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us)

RE: MD SB 258 "Department of General Services - State Buildings and Facilities – Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions"

Dear Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Kagan:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, to support the goals of Maryland Senate Bill 258, titled "Department of General Services - State Buildings and Facilities - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions" that sits before the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global professional society of more than 53,000 members, including 1,005 in Maryland, that focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration, and sustainability. Through our research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

As a professional Society comprised of many of the engineers who design the air moving, cooling, and heating systems that account for the majority of energy used in our built environment, ASHRAE's position is that energy use efficiency improvement for both new and existing buildings should be pursued aggressively as to achieve meaningful reductions in energy

consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Buildings and their construction are responsible for 36% of global final energy consumption and nearly 40% of total direct and indirect carbon dioxide emissions. We believe that this legislation, which would increase the average energy consumption reduction target for State buildings, update the High Performance Green Building Program, and mandate emission audits, would be a powerful mechanism for reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption. We are also pleased to see that this legislation is aligned with Maryland's goal of achieving a 60% reduction in climate pollution by 2031 and achieving net zero emissions by 2045.

ASHRAE writes multiple standards that are relevant to your effort, including ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2022 *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings* and ASHRAE Standard 100-2018 *Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings*, as well as the International Green Construction Code (IgCC), a high performance building code that is powered by ANSI/ASHRAE/ICC/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1 *Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings*. We appreciate that the 2019 edition of ASHRAE Standard 90.1 and the 2021 edition of the IgCC are already adopted by Maryland and will likely inform the execution of this legislation.

We appreciate your consideration of ASHRAE's comments regarding MD SB 258. ASHRAE supports the goals of MD SB 258, which we strongly believe will enhance energy efficiency in the built environment in the state of Maryland. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact [GovAffairs@ashrae.org](mailto:GovAffairs@ashrae.org). ASHRAE is here to be a resource to you for all things related to both the built environment and HVAC&R.

On behalf of our over 1,000 ASHRAE members in Maryland, thank you for your work to improve the built environment and improve the lives of Maryland's residents.

Sincerely,



Ginger Scoggins  
ASHRAE President



Theresa R. Schroeder, PE  
ASHRAE Baltimore Chapter President



Tyler Brown  
ASHRAE Baltimore Chapter Government Affairs Chair

Cc: AA\_EHE@mlis.state.md.us