

March 2, 2020

#### **Dear Members of Congress,**

We write in strong support of the bipartisan bills to phase down harmful chemicals called hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and replace them with climate-friendlier alternatives. The American Innovation and Manufacturing "AIM" Act (S. 2754) in the Senate and the American Innovation and Manufacturing Leadership Act (H.R 5544) in the House of Representatives will help protect against dangerous climate change while creating American jobs and securing the United States as a global leader.

As architects, contractors and engineers, we understand that transitioning from HFCs to climate-friendly alternatives is not only necessary for the climate, it is also a major opportunity for the American economy. We urge your support for the legislation.

Building energy usage accounts for nearly 40% of global energy consumption and buildings play a key role in high HFC emissions. HFCs leak into the atmosphere from air conditioners and industrial refrigeration units during the lifetime of equipment and at the time of replacement and disposal. Pound-for-pound, HFCs have hundreds to thousands of times the heat-trapping impact of carbon dioxide.

Fortunately, a global transition away from HFCs has started. American companies are already marketing innovative substitutes for HFCs and can lead the worldwide transition to environmentally-friendlier alternatives. As industry professionals, we know that we can transition away from HFCs smoothly, and this would benefit both our customers and the overall U.S. economy.

Both S. 2754 and H.R. 5544 establish a schedule for reducing production and import of HFCs binding on all U.S. chemical makers, importers and provides for acceleration when alternatives are more available. The bills require recovering reusable chemicals and reducing leaks during the service and disposal of equipment containing HFCs. And they provide for manufacturers to transition in specific categories of equipment, such as refrigerators and air conditioners, when climate-friendlier alternatives are available.

The market-based phase-down proposed in the legislation is a tried and true approach. The bill follows the same approach used under the Clean Air Act to phase out HFCs' predecessors, the CFCs and HCFCs, which damaged the earth's ozone layer. Now, as then, U.S. legislation will work alongside the Montreal Protocol, the global environmental treaty adopted under President Ronald Reagan.

Phasing down HFCs will be good for both our economy and our environment. According to a

recent study by the Interindustry Forecasting at the University of Maryland (INFORUM), a national HFC phase down will:

- Create 33,000 new manufacturing jobs and help sustain 138,400 existing jobs;
- Increase direct manufacturing output by \$12.5 billion and total manufacturing output by \$38.8 billion;
- Improve the U.S. trade balance in equipment and chemicals by \$12.5 billion; and
- Increase the U.S. share of the global export market by 25 percent.

In short, these bi-partisan bills address a critical environmental need while creating jobs and maintaining our global competitiveness.

As architects, engineers, and contractors, we join the long list of industry supporters of these bipartisan bills from entities small and large including the U.S. heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industry, National Association of Manufacturers the US Chamber of Commerce and E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) to urge your support.

Sincerely,

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