



## Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today

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**Sheila J. Hayter, P.E., FASHRAE**  
President

Reply to: Nat'l Renewable Energy Lab  
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Golden, CO 80401-3111  
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January 30, 2019

The Honorable John Lewis  
Member of Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
300 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lewis:

The longest government shutdown in U.S. history has had severe detrimental impacts across our country. I am writing to inform you of harm to the state of Georgia and technological progress, which you may be unaware. While it is encouraging that a compromise has been reached to open the government, we are writing nonetheless to hopefully help prevent another shutdown, as you learn of the full extent of harm this shutdown has had on your constituents and beyond.

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 56,000 members worldwide 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, and collaborates with many organizations throughout the HVAC&R industry. Additionally, the Society focuses on public safety and health concerns and provides guidance for a safe environment during extraordinary events.

ASHRAE held its Winter Conference and AHR Expo on January 12-16 in Atlanta. Due to the shutdown, several registrants were unable to attend, which significantly curtailed the critical work of writing and updating standards and guidelines that protect public health and the environment, bolster cyber-security, provide safer and more resilient buildings, and produce more productive and comfortable homes, schools, and work environments. These private consensus based standards are referenced in building standards and codes which protect the public, preserve natural resources and improve building performance.

In addition to curtailing technological progress that protects public health and safety, the reduced number of attendees diminished economic activity in the city. In addition, the closure of the Martin Luther King National Historical Park and the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum lessened the quality of the conference experience and reduced economic returns to the city.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. I would be happy to provide any additional details to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Sheila J. Hayter, P.E.  
ASHRAE President

