



# Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today

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May 3, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney,

As President of ASHRAE, I am writing today to express the Society's strong support for the US Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Air Program. This non-regulatory program, which is anchored in legislative authority outlined in SARA Title IV (indoor air research/public awareness on risks and risk reduction) and TSCA Title III (radon), is innovative and cost effective while helping prevent disease and associated medical costs.

ASHRAE has long been a leader in research on indoor air quality. ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1, *Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*, was first published in 1973. This standard has been updated every three years since that time. Then, in 2003, ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.2 was published and focuses on *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Residential Buildings*. ASHRAE values its connection with EPA and the Indoor Air Program and see that office as a vital partner in our work to improve human safety and comfort.

Recent studies estimate the indoor air quality products and services market in the United States represents more than \$18-30 billion in annual economic activity and is associated with 150,000-250,000 jobs. EPA's indoor air program makes vital contributions to this industry by establishing the technical and policy framework which guides industry action within this sector of the economy.

It is also worthwhile to note that Americans spend 90% of their time indoors on average. It is where we do most of our living and breathing. Yet indoor air pollution is one of the highest environmental public health risks we face as a nation. For example, it is estimated that 20,000 Americans alone die every year from exposure to radon in the home, not to mention complications from asthma and other major illnesses. It is essential to have EPA's environmental health expertise aimed at reducing and preventing disease and poor health outcomes from buildings and the economic costs associated with poor indoor air quality. No other Federal agency has the mandate or expertise to nationally address indoor air quality from a buildings perspective.

EPA's indoor air program provides a collaborative opportunity between federal agencies, the state, private industry and non-governmental organizations such as ASHRAE. Therefore it is the position of ASHRAE that it is essential to sustain EPA's indoor air, radon and radon state grants appropriations to protect public health and indoor air quality.

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. ASHRAE and its more than 57,000 members 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. More information can be found at [www.ashrae.org/news](http://www.ashrae.org/news).

Sincerely yours,



Timothy G. Wentz, President

cc: Mr. Bjarne Olesen, President-Elect  
Ms. Sheila Hayter, Treasurer  
Mr. Thomas Phoenix, Chair – Grassroots Government Advocacy Committee  
Mr. Jim Wolf, Vice Chair – Grassroots Government Advocacy Committee  
Mr. Jeff Littleton, Executive Vice President  
Mr. Jim Scarborough, Manager – Grassroots Government Affairs – Washington, DC