February 6, 2019

Florida Building Commission
Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation
2601 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Florida State Commercial Energy Code Proposed Modification # 8122

Dear Florida Building Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed updates to the Florida Commercial Energy Code which is pending review by Technical Advisory Committee and the Florida Building Commission. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is an international organization of over 56,000 members, including almost 1,900 in Florida. The Society and its members focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality and sustainability within the industry. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow’s built environment today.

As the State of Florida considers updating its commercial energy code, we ask the state to incorporate by reference the most recent version of ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, which is the 2016 version, including all of its appendices as a compliance path for your state.

This Standard, first published in 1975, is the basis for the energy standard of most U.S. commercial buildings. For over 40 years, this Standard has served as the leading resource for state and local jurisdictions that wish to promote energy efficiency, engaging interests across the building and construction sector, and yielding increased levels of efficiency in a balanced manner with input from all affected parties. As are all ASHRAE Standards, Standard 90.1 is developed and improved through the private-sector in accordance with American National Standards Institute’s (ANSI) consensus-driven process.

U.S. federal law mandates the most recent version of ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1 as the basis for State commercial building energy codes. The Energy Conservation and Production Act mandates that all states comply with this Act. Each time the Standard is updated, which is every three years, the Act requires the Secretary of Energy to make a determination with respect to whether the revised standard would improve energy efficiency in commercial buildings. When the U.S. Department of Energy issues an affirmative determination on Standard 90.1, states are
statutorily required to certify within two years that they have reviewed and updated the commercial provisions of their building energy code, with respect to energy efficiency, to meet or exceed the revised standard.

Thank you for your consideration of this modification to the Florida Energy Code. Please contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org if you need additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Sheila J. Hayter, PE, FASHRAE
ASHRAE President SY2018-19