



Shaping Tomorrow's  
Built Environment Today

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September 11, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Energy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Energy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, Chairman Cassidy, and Ranking Member Heinrich:

We are writing to express our support for several provisions in S. 2137 and H.R. 3962, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2019 (ESIC). The bill contains provisions that would improve the energy performance of buildings, strengthening their resilience, increasing energy security, and bolstering the economy. ASHRAE appreciates the dedication of the sponsors of this legislation for working in a bipartisan fashion and seeking the input of a wide variety of stakeholders in crafting the bill.

The ESIC focuses on buildings as a pathway to reduce energy use since they are responsible for approximately 38% of energy consumption in the United States.<sup>1</sup> In addition to having the Department of Energy establish energy efficiency targets for building codes, the bill requires the use of ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings* (Standard 90.1), as the benchmark for commercial buildings. Standard 90.1 has been used for the last 40 years and the most recent version of the standard, which was published in 2016, is about 34% more energy efficient than the 2004 version. We appreciate the bill sponsors' recognition of Standard 90.1, as it serves as indispensable reference for state and local government, engineers and other professionals involved in design of buildings and building systems.

We also appreciate that ESIC would create several new programs that would further advance building energy performance. These programs include:

- Assisting state and local agencies with adapting and implementing building energy codes and standards.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, "Use of Energy in the United States - Energy Explained, Your Guide To Understanding Energy," Updated 29 May 2018, [www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.php?page=us\\_energy\\_use](http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.php?page=us_energy_use)

- Making improvements to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS), which serves as the baseline for many initiatives designed to reduce energy consumption in both new and existing buildings.
- Collaborating with non-profits to create a training program that will equip workers with the skills necessary for construction and installation of energy-efficient building products and systems
- Improving energy efficiency in schools and federal buildings.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and for taking the time to deliberate this important legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact either of us or have your staff contact [GovAffairs@ashrae.org](mailto:GovAffairs@ashrae.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darryl K. Boyce", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Darryl K. Boyce  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff H. Littleton", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff H. Littleton  
Executive Vice President