



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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October 25, 2018

The Honorable William B. Long  
FEMA Administrator  
500 C Street, SW.  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Long:

As FEMA begins to implement the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA), which was signed into law on October 5th, ASHRAE would appreciate the opportunity to serve as a resource for your office. As a non-profit engineering society founded in 1894, ASHRAE has more than 56,000 members worldwide, including 39,000 in the U.S., who can provide expertise on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability to bolster the resiliency of our nation's infrastructure.

In particular, ASHRAE would like to provide input to FEMA as it implements Section 1241 of DRRA concerning Post Disaster Safety Assessments. This section of DRRA directs FEMA to coordinate with organizations representing architects and engineers to "develop guidance, including best practices, for post-disaster assessment of buildings by licensed architects and engineers to ensure the design professionals properly analyze the structural integrity and livability of buildings and structures." Livability includes important health considerations such as indoor environmental quality, proper ventilation, and thermal comfort, all factors for which ASHRAE has technical expertise. In addition, ASHRAE has developed consensus-based standards and guidelines concerning these matters that will help ensure proper evaluation of buildings post-disaster.

As the Administrator of FEMA, we appreciate your leadership on these issues. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to assist with your implementation of this important statute. We also ask that you include ASHRAE in any taskforce or other meetings you may assemble to address this issue. To follow-up, please feel free to contact me or ASHRAE's government affairs staff at [GovAffairs@ashrae.org](mailto:GovAffairs@ashrae.org). We look forward to helping FEMA strengthen communities and improve the resiliency of our nation.

Sincerely,

Sheila J. Hayter, P.E.  
ASHRAE President

