

180 Technology Parkway, NW • Peachtree Corners, GA 30092-2977 • Tel: 404.636.8400 • Fax: 404.321.5478 www.ashrae.org

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Ginger Scoggins

Engineered Designs, Inc.

1151 SE Cary Pkwy., Ste. 200

Cary, NC 27518

Phone: (919) 851-8481

Email: [gscoggins@engineereddesigns.com](mailto:gscoggins@engineereddesigns.com)

2023-2024 ASHRAE President

November 3, 2023

The Honorable Dick Durbin

The Honorable Lindsey Graham

Senate Committee on the Judiciary

U.S. Senate

224 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

*Letter sent via email*

Re: S. 835, the Protecting and Enhancing Public Access to Codes Act (Pro Codes Act)

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, a global professional society committed to serving humanity by advancing the arts and sciences of heating ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration, and their allied fields. We wish to thank the Senate Judiciary Committee for its consideration of S. 835, the Protecting and Enhancing Public Access to Codes Act (Pro Codes Act). We also thank the bill’s sponsors and co-sponsors, all of whom sit on your committee, Senators Coons, Cornyn, Tillis, Whitehouse, and Hirono for their leadership on this bill, which ASHRAE proudly supports.

The rigorous, consensus-based standards developed by ASHRAE and other standards development organizations (SDOs) are essential to public health, sustainability, safety, and security. The Pro Codes Act acknowledges that the United States benefits greatly from the work of private SDOs with expertise in highly specialized areas.

This bipartisan bill will preserve copyright protection of such standards when they are incorporated by reference into federal regulations, state laws or municipal regulations, so long as the standard is available and free for viewing on a publicly accessible website. This will ensure that ASHRAE can continue its work developing vital standards, which is critical to realizing our vision of a healthy, resilient, and sustainable built environment for all.

Once again, we appreciate the committee’s leadership on the Pro Codes Act and stand ready to assist in any way.

Sincerely,

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Ginger Scoggins

ASHRAE President