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Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

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March 3, 2026

The Honorable Senator Herron Keyon Gaston
The Honorable Representative Pat S. Boyd
Chairs
Joint Public Safety and Security Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
210 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: HB 5401, "An Act Concerning the Procedure for Adopting, Revising and Amending the State Building Code and Requiring Related Training"

Dear Chair Gaston, Chair Boyd and Members of the Joint Public Safety and Security Committee:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global professional society of more than 54,000 members, including nearly 500 in Connecticut, that focuses on the engineering of building systems, indoor air quality, and resiliency. Through research, standards development, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's global built environment today.

I would like to express ASHRAE's opposition to HB 5401. This bill would prohibit the state building code from being revised "more frequently than once every six years or once per two full model code cycles." Additionally, the bill would prohibit any new building code updates from 2026 to 2032, effectively freezing the code for the next 6 years. This would unnecessarily delay Connecticut residents from benefiting from the reduced energy costs and increased energy efficiency of the most up-to-date building energy codes.

Connecticut's current building code is based on the 2021 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the 2019 edition of ASHRAE Standard 90.1, *Energy Standard for Sites and Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*. Right now with a building built to this code compared to the previous edition, the average Connecticut homeowner is saving

8.8%, which equates to $292, on their utility bills every year.[1] This shows the importance of updating to each subsequent edition of the model code, so that residents can start to see these cost savings as soon as possible.

ASHRAE Standard 90.1 has been the benchmark for commercial building energy codes in the United States and a key basis for codes and standards around the world for more than 35 years. It is an indispensable reference for engineers and other professionals involved in the design of buildings and building systems. ASHRAE Standard 90.1 is under continuous maintenance by the 90.1 Standard Project Committee, and energy performance has improved in each successive edition, resulting in major improvements over time. Over the period of 2004-2019, which included six editions of Standard 90.1, energy performance improved by 36%. The latest edition of Standard 90.1, the 2022 edition, has also made significant updates and expands on the efficiency gains made in previous editions. **By preventing any code updates in the next 6 years, and limiting updates to only once every two code cycles after that, Connecticut residents would miss out on years of increased energy efficiency and cost savings.**

In summary, ASHRAE respectfully opposes this legislation and requests the committee vote against advancing this bill to the floor.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHRAE's comments.

Sincerely,

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

[1] U.S. Department of Energy, "Cost Effectiveness of the 2021 IECC for Residential Buildings in Connecticut", July 2021: https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/ConnecticutResidentialCostEffectiveness_2021_0.pdf