



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

1791 Tullie Circle NE • Atlanta, GA 30329-2305 • Tel: 404.636.8400 • Fax: 404.321.5478 • www.ashrae.org

Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E., FASHRAE, HBDP, LEED AP
2020-2021 ASHRAE President

Environmental Air Systems, LLC
250 Swathmore Ave.
High Point, NC 27263
Phone: 336.579.7635
Email: GullledgeChuck@gmail.com

July 27, 2020

The Honorable Phil Ting
Assembly Member
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

Letter Sent Via Email to assemblymember.ting@assembly.ca.gov

RE: Assembly Bill 841

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 55,000 members focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

We are writing to you regarding Assembly Bill 841 (AB 841), the School and State Building Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program. We support the inclusion of ASHRAE's Building Readiness Guidance and Guidance for Reopening Schools and Universities in the legislation. Earlier this year, ASHRAE established an Epidemic Task Force (ETF) to help deploy technical resources to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and possible future epidemics as it relates to the effects of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems on disease transmission. Guidance has been developed for several building types and operational conditions, including for school facilities, and we support the inclusion of this guidance in AB 841.

Using ASHRAE's guidance concerning ventilation and filtration provided by heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems can reduce the airborne concentration of SARS-CoV-2 and thus the risk of transmission through the air. The guidance addresses the air transport path in the HVAC system, as well as air in the occupied space. ASHRAE recommends a minimum MERV 13 filter where feasible, along with appropriate ventilation rates, air distribution patterns, humidity control, and supplemental disinfection. We appreciate those elements are included in the legislation.

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The school facility guidance also recommends flushing of water systems to remove potential contaminants from stagnant equipment. ASHRAE's guidance also recommends use of ASHRAE's Standard 188-2018, *Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems*, which establishes minimum legionellosis risk management requirements, and ASHRAE Guideline 12-2020, *Managing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems*, which provides detailed guidance for water management program teams to develop the necessary elements of an effective water management plan. Addressing water systems is another important aspect of reopening buildings, and we recommend including those elements in the "School and State Building Noncompliant Plumbing Fixture Program."

Thank you for your work in improving school facilities, conserving resources, and helping to keep our students and teachers safe. Please let us know if we can provide any additional technical assistance concerning building systems, including ventilation and water systems. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email GovAffairs@ashrae.org. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Charles E. Gullledge III, PE in black ink.

Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E., FASHRAE, HBDP, LEED AP
2020-21 President

cc: California Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee