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2023-2024 ASHRAE President

October 10th, 2023

The Honorable Senator Bill Cunningham

The Honorable Representative Ryan Spain

Chairs

Joint Committee on Administrative Rules

700 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

*Letter sent via email to* *jcar@ilga.gov*

Re: Ill. Reg. 7177 - Illinois Energy Conservation Code Update

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Bill Cunningham and Representative Ryan Spain,

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, to support the update to Illinois’ Energy Conservation Code, Ill. Reg. 7177, that sits before the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global professional society of more than 53,000 members, including over 1,400 in Illinois, that focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration, and sustainability. Through our research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow’s built environment today.

**ASHRAE supports the proposed regulation 7177 that would update the state’s energy code to the 2021 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code that encompasses the 2019 edition of ASHRAE Standard 90.1,** [***Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings***](https://ashrae.iwrapper.com/ASHRAE_PREVIEW_ONLY_STANDARDS/STD_90.1_2019)**.** ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, 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 design of buildings and building systems. Updating to the 2019 edition of Standard 90.1 would allow the state to benefit from the significant improvements made to the standard from previous editions.

The energy efficiency gains in ASHRAE Standard 90.1 have 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%. In developing the most recent 2022 edition, the 90.1 Standard Project Committee has targeted a 45-50% increase in energy performance compared to 2004.

**Moving to the ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019 edition from the Standard 90.1-2016 edition is cost‐effective for Illinois**.[[1]](#footnote-1) Adopting this standard will:

* Lower average construction costs: buildings with the better insulation mandated by 90.1-2019 require less expensive and intensive HVAC systems, bringing down total costs.
* Reduce statewide CO2 emissions by 8.6 MMT, equivalent to the CO2 emissions of 1,860,000 cars driven for one year, over a 30-year period.
* Put over $1.2 million in energy cost savings back into the state’s economy in the first year after adoption, and over $500 million back into the state’s economy over a 30-year period.
* Create over 500 jobs in the first year after adoption, and over 15,000 jobs over a 30-year period.

Again, we support the proposed Illinois Regulation 7177 to update the state to the most recent edition of the International Energy Conservation Code and in so doing, to update the state to ASHRAE’s 2019 edition of Standard 90.1. This will benefit the people of Illinois and result in a more sustainable built environment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Thank you for your work to improve the built environment and improve the lives of Illinois residents.

Sincerely,



Ginger Scoggins

ASHRAE President

1. *Cost-Effectiveness of ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2019 for Illinois*, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, July 2021: <https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/Cost-effectiveness_of_ASHRAE_Standard_90-1-2019-Illinois.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)