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M. Dennis Knight
2024-2025 ASHRAE President

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April 07, 2025

The Honorable Ana Rodriguez
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Florida State Capitol
400 South Monroe St
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: FL SB 62 “Resilient Buildings”

Dear Senator Rodriguez:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. ASHRAE is a professional and technical society of nearly 55,000 members dedicated to energy efficiency, indoor air quality, resiliency, and sustainability in the built environment. Through the Society’s research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow’s global built environment today. As one of the premier subject matter experts on the built environment, and on behalf of our nearly 2,000 members in the state of Florida, we wish to share our comments on Florida Senate Bill 62, which is titled simply “Resilient Buildings.” ASHRAE supports the goals of this legislation.

Senate Bill 62 would, if passed, create a tax credit for the construction and operation of resilient buildings. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system would be used to establish which buildings qualify, and the tax credit would range from \$0.5 to \$2 per square foot, depending on several variables. Additionally, a Resilient Buildings Advisory Committee would be created to ensure good administration of the tax credit, and to identify additional opportunities for improving building resiliency on a cost-effective basis.

One of ASHRAE's public policy priorities is to advance the design and construction of resilient buildings and communities. Investing in building resiliency is crucial to saving lives, protecting property, and reducing the financial strain of post-disaster recovery. A resilient built environment is a vital component for protecting the public when natural and human induced events occur because our buildings often serve as the first line of defense against these shocks. After a disaster, a building's ability to quickly recover and be available to occupants can have widespread economic and health implications. In particular, up-to-date building standards (e.g. ventilation, pathogen mitigation, energy efficiency) are essential elements of providing resilient buildings.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments in support of the goals of FL SB 62. We welcome any opportunity to answer questions or speak to you about this legislation or the built environment more broadly. Please contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org if we can be of service. Thank you for your work to improve the built environment in Florida and improve the lives of Florida's residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Dennis Knight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

M. Dennis Knight
2024-2025 ASHRAE President