



Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

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Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

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May 26, 2026

The Honorable Senator Michael J. Rodrigues
The Honorable Senator Joanne M. Comerford
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Re: H. 5175 "An Act Relative to Energy Affordability, Clean Power and Economic Competitiveness"

Dear Chair Rodrigues and Vice-Chair Comerford:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. We are a professional and technical society of more than 55,000 members dedicated to energy efficiency, indoor air quality, resiliency, and sustainability in the built environment. Through our 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 over 1000 members in the state of Massachusetts, we wish to convey our opposition to Section 69 of H. 5175.

This section of the legislation would mandate a mid-cycle reduction of funding to the Mass Save program. While Section 69 directs reductions toward marketing, advertising, and administrative spending, those budget categories alone are insufficient to achieve the bill's mandated \$1 billion reduction. In practice, this legislation would require cuts to core Mass Save programs: weatherization assistance programs and other energy efficiency subsidies and incentives.

Continued investment in buildings' energy efficiency, sustainability, and reducing embodied and operating carbon emissions are among ASHRAE's top public policy priorities. Buildings are responsible for 49.4% of Massachusetts' energy use and 36% of statewide greenhouse gas emissions. Lowering these numbers with a proven policy lever like Mass Save can help Massachusetts achieve its climate goals of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2030 and an 75% reduction by 2040.

In addition to helping the Commonwealth achieve its climate goals, Mass Save plays an important role in electrical grid resilience. Efficiency improvements made today help reduce future strain on the electrical grid and help avoid costly infrastructure expansion. Abrupt program reductions may also negatively impact Massachusetts building trades and clean energy workforce, including contractors, engineers, and manufacturers that rely on stable project pipelines.

ASHRAE recognizes the immediate energy affordability burden facing Massachusetts residents. We also support transparency, accountability, administrative efficiency, and evidence-based review of Mass Save program costs and outcomes. Our concern is with abrupt mid-cycle reductions to an approved three-year efficiency plan. Building efficiency projects are not short-cycle transactions. Building projects and efficiency projects involve months of planning, engineering, financing, procurement, and installation before work begins. This is especially true for HVAC replacements, heat-pump conversions, weatherization projects, and large commercial retrofits.

When program rules or incentive availability change suddenly, project economics can change after owners have already invested money by authorizing design work, selecting systems, and starting procurement. The practical result can be delayed or cancelled projects and fewer verified reductions in energy use and peak demand.

Stable, predictable program rules reduce implementation risk for building owners, engineers, contractors, and facility teams. That predictability helps the Commonwealth convert program dollars into durable field outcomes: lower energy waste, lower peak demand, improved building performance, and reduced lifecycle cost, while maintaining health, safety, comfort, and indoor environmental quality.

On behalf of our more than 1000 members in Massachusetts, thank you for your consideration of ASHRAE's comments in opposition to the mid-cycle reduction mandated by Section 69 of H. 5175. We also wish to make ourselves available to you at any time if you find yourself in need of subject matter expertise on building sciences and the built environment. We can be reached at GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McQuade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "M".

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucas Rowe". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "R".

Lucas Rowe
ASHRAE Boston Chapter President, 2025-2026