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January 23, 2024

The Honorable Jesse Sumner
Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for House Bill 253

Dear Chairman Sumner:

In December 2020, President Trump signed the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act, directing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue rules that will phasedown the use of current refrigerants (HFCs), restricting their use in certain applications, such as commercial refrigeration, chillers, and air conditioning, in favor of more efficient and environmentally friendly alternatives.

We are writing to ask for your support on House Bill (HB) 253, sponsored by Representative Stanley Wright. This legislation clarifies that building codes in Alaska do not prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

AHRI represents more than 300 manufacturers of air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration equipment. It is an internationally recognized advocate for the HVACR industry and certifies the performance of many of the products manufactured by its members. In North America, the annual economic activity resulting from the HVACR industry is approximately \$256 billion. In the United States alone, AHRI member companies, along with distributors, contractors, and technicians employ more than 1.3 million people.

The U.S. heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industry supports over 700 jobs in Alaska and more than 571,000 jobs nationwide.

However, manufacturers face a pressing challenge. Building codes must be updated in every state to remove regulatory barriers to the use of substitute refrigerants. HB 253 clarifies that any substitute refrigerant deemed safe under federal EPA standards, may be used in Alaska.

HB 253 is the key to ensuring the phasedown of HFCs can happen in an orderly and efficient manner. We urge your support for HB 253 to provide the entire U.S. HVACR industry with the certainty needed to move forward with the design, testing, certification, production, and installation of new equipment that complies with these new federal regulations.



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AHRI looks forward to continuing to work with the state of Alaska to achieve both the economic and environmental benefits of the phase down of HFCs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Nerozzi".

Mike Nerozzi
Director of Government Affairs

CC: Members, House Labor and Commerce Committee