



# ASHRAE

Technology for a Better Environment

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**Terry E. Townsend, P. E.**

President

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April 18, 2007

Representative David Wu  
Chair, Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation  
House Committee on Science and Technology  
2320 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Phil Gingrey  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Technology and  
Innovation  
House Committee on Science and Technology  
H2-389 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wu and Ranking Member Gingrey,

Your leadership in support of the nation's scientific and technological competitiveness is greatly appreciated. We commend your introduction of the *Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007* to provide for the continued support of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) programs. We look forward to working with you to support its enactment.

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), founded in 1894, is an international organization of 50,000 members. ASHRAE fulfills its mission of advancing heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education. ASHRAE has long recognized the importance of NIST in advancing science and technology and ensuring the nation remains at the forefront of the development and application of technology.

For example, NIST's work is extremely critical to increasing the energy efficiency of our nation's buildings and maintaining the safety and security of the built environment. The Building and Fire Research Laboratory studies building materials; computer-integrated construction practices; fire science and fire safety engineering; and structural, mechanical, and environmental engineering. Products of the laboratory's research include measurements and test methods, performance criteria, and technical data that support innovations by industry and are incorporated into building and fire standards and codes. The Building Environment Division develops data, measurement methods and modeling techniques for the performance of the building envelope, its insulation systems, building air leakage, and the release, movement and absorption of indoor air pollutants.

The technical programs of NIST are unique in that they foster government and industry cooperation through cost-sharing partnerships that create long-term investments based on engineering and technology. These programs are aimed at providing the technical support vital to our nation's competitiveness in the global economy. Although not as well publicized as some of the nation's national laboratories, NIST's laboratories are critical to the nation's economic, environmental and national security. In addition, the important work of NIST in the area of standards, including serving as the U.S. inquiry point for the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement and the Standards-in-Trade programs, is vital to ensuring that U.S. technology and products are not unduly handicapped in the global market.

*American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.*

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A N I N T E R N A T I O N A L O R G A N I Z A T I O N

The Department of Commerce and NIST have a vital role in ensuring acceptance by other nations of U.S.-developed standards that incorporate technological advances and that meet changing industry, regulatory, and public safety needs. Enabling U.S. manufacturers to design and build to one standard or set of standards increases their competitiveness in the world market. The ability of NIST to assist U.S. standards developers in their negotiations with international and national standards organizations is important to the U.S. business community.

Again, we are grateful for your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to support this critical legislation. If you, or your staff, have any questions or would desire more information, please contact Ryan Colker, Government Affairs Representative at 202/833-1830 or rcolker@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry E. Townsend". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Terry E. Townsend  
President

TET/rmc