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DATE Oct. 31 2011

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October 31, 2011

California Energy Commission (CEC)

Re: October 13, 2011 Nonresidential Staff Workshop - 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (AHRI Comments on Proposed Mandatory Requirements for Commercial Refrigeration)

Dear CEC Staff:

The Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) is the trade association representing manufacturers of heating, cooling, water heating, and commercial refrigeration equipment. Over 300 members strong, AHRI is an internationally recognized advocate for the industry, and develops standards for and certifies the performance of many of the products manufactured by our members. In North America, the annual output of the HVACR industry is worth more than \$20 billion. In the United States alone, our members employ approximately 130,000 people, and support some 800,000 dealers, contractors, and technicians.

We are concerned about the mandatory measures discussed at the October 13, 2011 CEC staff workshop. We urge CEC to reconsider its code change proposals with respect to commercial refrigeration equipment since these proposed changes are prescriptive for products that are already regulated at the federal level. Energy conservation standards currently exist for commercial refrigeration equipment. The prescriptive requirements are unnecessary since they hinder manufacturing innovation that goes into a product in order to meet the applicable federal energy conservation standard.

We are particularly concerned about the following mandatory requirement: upright low temperature display cases that are designed for a supply air temperature of 5 °F or lower shall utilize reach-in glass doors. The federal regulation allows manufacturers to produce upright low temperature display cases that are open. Therefore, the proposed Title 24 code language essentially bans the use of an equipment class which a manufacturer is entitled to produce per the federal law. The regulation can be accessed from the following link:

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/commercial/pdfs/cre_final_rule.pdf

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this Title 24 code change proposal. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to call me at (703) 600-0383.

Sincerely,



Aniruddh Roy
Regulatory Engineer
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201-3001, USA
703-600-0383 Phone
703-562-1942 Fax
aroy@ahrinet.org