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November 8th, 2016

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor of Michigan
P.O Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

As Michigan addresses power demand problems caused by coal plant retirements, your Administration may be interested in the energy savings that properly installed heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment can provide. The Michigan Air Conditioning Contractors Association (MIACCA) and the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) are the state and national advocacy associations for licensed HVAC contractors in Michigan. We want to share with you how HVAC installation standards can help your Administration achieve energy savings.

As representatives of contractors who service and install HVAC equipment, we are pleased that Michigan law supports reducing energy waste. However, we are concerned that efficiency gains in HVAC equipment are not fully realized, because, to our knowledge, there are no installation standards recognized by the State that contractors should abide by.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) published a study that examined the delivered efficiency of HVAC equipment and the impact installation practices have on delivered efficiency. NIST found that due to improper HVAC equipment sizing and/or duct leakage, typical U.S. homes can consume 30 percent or more energy than they should. And, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that a majority of homes in the U.S. suffer from poor HVAC installation practices. Put simply, upgrading to highly efficient HVAC systems has been ineffective for most homes because they have not been installed according to the manufacturers' recommendations, or to new residential energy codes recently enacted in Michigan.

To address this, ACCA created the nationally recognized HVAC installation standard, ANSI/ACCA 5 (*HVAC Quality Installation Specification*) – the minimum design and installation requirements for residential and commercial HVAC applications. If followed, HVAC equipment can function according to the manufacturers' energy efficiency ratings and consumers will realize increased savings and comfort. Equally important, the energy saved by ensuring that all HVAC equipment is properly installed will help Michigan address its energy demands.

To accompany the ACCA 5 Standard, we offer contractors enrollment in the Residential Service and Installation (RSI) Contractor Accreditation Program, which is the first EPA ENERGY STAR Verified Installation (ESVI) program sponsor. EPA is fully aware that highly efficient HVAC equipment will not achieve its designed operational efficiency if it is not properly installed, so we worked closely with the

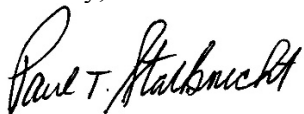
agency on accreditation and verification programs. In order for a homeowner to receive EPA certification that their equipment is installed according to ESVI practices, contractors must enroll in the RSI Program and follow the ACCA 5 Standard protocols and verification checklist.

As you consider methods to secure Michigan's energy future, we encourage you to work closely with the contracting industry on accreditation and verification programs to ensure HVAC equipment is working as promised and to code.

Contractor accreditation coupled with ACCA Standard 5 verification is the best way to ensure that efficiency programs are realized in the field. We assure you that it will benefit the State of Michigan, customers, and those who are in HVAC trade – a profession that can never be exported.

Please have your staff contact Brindley Byrd, Executive Director of MIACCA, at brindleyb@miacca.org or (517) 203-9180, or Todd Washam, ACCA's Director of Industry Relations, at todd.washam@acca.org or (703) 824-8864, for more information. We would also welcome an in-person meeting to discuss the importance of Michigan recognizing national HVAC installation standards.

Sincerely,



Paul T. Stalknecht
President & CEO
Air Conditioning Contractors of America
The Indoor Environment
And Energy Efficiency Association



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CC:

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