



Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

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M. Dennis Knight
2024-2025 ASHRAE President

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April 29, 2025

The Honorable Jim Boyd
Senate Majority Leader
317 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Lori Berman
Senate Minority Leader
222 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: SB 110 "Rural Communities," FL HB 1461 "Industries and Professional Activities," and
HB 991 "Community and Economic Development"

Dear Majority Leader Boyd and Minority Leader Berman:

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 54,000 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 more than 1,900 ASHRAE members in Florida, I wish to share our opposition to provisions introduced in HB 1461, and later added to HB 991 and SB 110, that would eliminate the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) and move its licensing, regulatory, and enforcement authorities to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR).

ASHRAE supports policies and practices that equip Professional Engineers (P.E.) with the technical skills that engineers need to ensure a safe and efficient built environment. The FBPE helps deliver on these goals by maintaining rigor and a commitment to public safety throughout

the engineering profession. FBPE's 11-member Board ensures that diverse engineering perspectives are considered. This technical expertise is vitally important in licensing fields such as engineering that have the potential to affect the health or life of an individual. The proposal gives little indication about how the DBPR is, or will become, qualified to make the technical and important decisions necessary to effectively assess this workforce. Through its technical expertise and effective management, the FBPE keeps Floridians safe and productive.

In addition to protecting the interest of public health and safety, the FBPE provides exceptional service to Professional Engineers in Florida. With administrative support provided by the FEMC, the board provides exceptional service to Florida's nearly 50,000 P.E.s. Its modern and efficient license renewal system effectively captures continuing education and commitment to engineering ethics and boasts a 98-percent online licensure renewal rate. Moving away from this highly efficient and effective system would unnecessarily burden the state's engineering community and eliminate a vital accountability tool.

As hurricanes, wildfires, and other extreme weather events continue to test the resilience of Florida's built environment, a high-quality building stock is vital to the state's continued growth and success. However, it will be difficult to effectively bolster the resilience of buildings and infrastructure in Florida without a highly qualified engineering workforce capable of implementing the latest technology and engineering design practices. The FBPE provides a modern and efficient system to ensure these rigorous standards are maintained.

On behalf of more than 1,900 ASHRAE members in Florida, thank you for your consideration of these comments in opposition to HB 1461 and HB 991. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Dennis Knight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and last name "Knight" clearly legible.

M. Dennis Knight
2024-2025 ASHRAE President