

Sample ACA/NE Email Message Sent to House Leadership In Opposition to

Amendment #701 to H5007-Refrigeration Technicians

July 12, 2022

 **Dear Chairman Michlewitz,**

I am writing on behalf of the Air Conditioning Association of New England (ACA/NE), a not-for-profit trade association for residential heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration contractors.

ACA/NE represents and serves companies that design, install, service, and repair air conditioning, heating, refrigeration, air purification, ventilating systems, plumbing, piping, sheet metal, and energy management systems of all sizes and complexities. In addition, membership includes equipment manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors of equipment, vocational and technical schools, and others interested in the residential HVAC/R industry.

ACA/NE members oppose the passage of Amendment #701 to H5007-Refrigeration Technicians. This legislation would require residential HVAC contractors to obtain a refrigeration license for work under ten tons.

ACA/NE is not opposed to licensing residential HVAC contractors. In fact, we have been working with the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) to create an HVAC Construction Supervisors License (CSL) to do just that.

However, there is a critical difference between what ACA/NE is doing and what Amendment #701 to H5007 does. The BBRS issues licenses for trades that do work implementing the residential building code. The BBRS and municipal building code inspectors create, enforce, and update the building code. Under Amendment #701 to H5007, licensing would fall under the Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinklerfittters, which administers commercial HVAC licensing.  The appropriate authority and expertise that fits with HVAC residential work is under the BBRS.

If Amendment #701 to H5007 were to pass, it would have serious negative consequences for our industry and homeowners across the Commonwealth.

Residential HVAC contractors could be put out of business, and homeowners would not have affordable HVAC installation and maintenance services available to them. Moreover, HVAC residential work is already required to be permitted, enforced, and inspected by the local building department.

We ask that you not allow Amendment #701 to H5007 to move forward.

We welcome an opportunity to meet with you and your staff to review this matter in much greater detail.  We have provided contact information below to schedule meetings or provide information that you deem important in your review of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Manuel Chaves

ACA/NE Board Member and Chairman Catherine Flaherty, CAE

Government Affairs Committee ACA/NE Executive Director

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