



December 4, 2018

Re: Testimony on Intro. 1253 – Local Law to amend New York City Charter and the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to the commitment to achieve certain reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Good morning, Chair Constantinides, and Committee members. My name is Anthony M. Montalto. I'm a licensed Professional Engineer and LEED Accredited Professional. I'm an associate partner at Jaros, Baum and Bolles, a consulting engineering firm, as well as the current President of the ASHRAE NY Chapter, on whose behalf I'm appearing today. I'm also joined by Charles Marino, Director of Energy Services at AKF Group and a longstanding board member of the ASHRAE NY Chapter. We're here on behalf of the local ASHRAE Chapter, which represents over 1,000 ASHRAE members.

ASHRAE (the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers), founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its members focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability within the industry. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today. ASHRAE's mission is to advance the arts and sciences of heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigerating to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world. With more than 56,000 members from over 132 nations, ASHRAE is a diverse organization representing building system design and industrial process professionals around the world.

The NY Chapter consists of a wide-ranging group of engineers, designers, contractors, developers, sales representatives and other professionals involved with the built environment. It is our obligation to represent these various stakeholders. The ASHRAE NY Chapter supports the goal of Intro. 1253 and applauds the City Council for setting aggressive emission limits to greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. But we have concerns about the bill in its current form.

Section 28-320.3 of the proposed bill identifies the building CO₂ emission limits. The limits are categorized based on occupancy group as indicated in the NYC Building Codes. The use of occupancy groups for benchmarking CO₂ emissions is not appropriate. Buildings within each occupancy group differ drastically in terms of the energy usage and CO₂ emissions. The bill in its current state would provide the same limits of CO₂ emissions for a hospital and a warehouse. We recommend that the limitations of CO₂ be categorized based on a building's primary program use, and further recommend that the bill be revised to utilize the building classification system identified in Local Law 84. In addition, ASHRAE has a number of standards for the built environment that would be of help in this effort.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. We appreciate all the efforts that you're taking to make this city a more sustainable place to live and work. We trust you'll take our concern into serious consideration, ensuring that the bill correctly targets emission limits for all building sectors and providing the bill its best opportunity to be an effective tool to drive carbon reductions in the built environment.

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