



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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Sheila J. Hayter, P.E., FASHRAE
President

Reply to: Nat'l Renewable Energy Lab
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July 17, 2018

The Honorable Mayor Keisha Lance-Bottoms
Members of the Atlanta City Council
55 Trinity Ave SW #2500
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mayor Lance-Bottoms and Members of the City Council:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE regarding the proposed smoke-free ordinance Atlanta is considering adopting. ASHRAE, founded in 1894 and headquartered in Atlanta, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 56,000 members worldwide focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

ASHRAE encourages the City of Atlanta to adopt an ordinance that would eliminate smoking in all public buildings and workplaces in Atlanta; this approach is the optimal way to minimize exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), a known health risk. As an Atlanta-based business and a technical Society developing standards for indoor environmental quality, ASHRAE offers the following support for banning smoking in indoor environments:

- There is a consensus in the medical community and its cognizant authorities that ETS is a health risk, causing lung cancer and heart disease in adults, and exacerbation of asthma, lower respiratory illnesses and other adverse effects on the respiratory health of children.
- At present, the only means of effectively eliminating health risks associated with indoor exposure is to ban all smoking activity.
- Although complete separation and isolation of smoking rooms can control ETS exposure in non-smoking spaces in the same building, adverse health effects for the occupants of the smoking room cannot be controlled by ventilation.
- No other engineering approaches, including current and advanced dilution ventilation, "air curtains" or air cleaning technologies, have been demonstrated or should be relied

upon to control health risks from ETS exposure in spaces where smoking occurs, though some approaches may reduce that exposure and address odor and some forms of irritation.

- An increasing number of local and national governments, as well as many private building owners, are implementing/adopting bans on indoor smoking.

I am attaching a copy of the ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke, which more thoroughly discusses this matter. ASHRAE would be happy to address any questions you might have or to offer technical assistance through our Chapter in Atlanta and/or experts from relevant technical committees within ASHRAE. Please feel free to contact me directly or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

For more information on ASHRAE and its Standards, programs and resources, please go to www.ashrae.org.

Sincerely,



Sheila J. Hayter, PE, FASHRAE
2018-19 ASHRAE President

cc: Irvin Sierra, ASHRAE Atlanta Chapter President
Meghan McNulty, ASHRAE Atlanta Chapter GAC Chair
Jeff Littleton, ASHRAE Executive Director