

April 3, 2020

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment & Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment & Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Barrasso, Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Carper, and Ranking Member Walden:

On behalf of the Wittichen Supply Company which is a Wholesale Distributor of Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Parts, Equipment, and Supplies, I am writing to support S.2754, the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2019 (AIM Act), introduced in October with more than 30 bipartisan co-sponsors.

The AIM Act will phase down a class of chemicals known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are primarily used as refrigerants, solvents, propellants, and fire suppressants, among other applications. A federal framework to phase down HFCs creates an orderly transition to next generation technologies, many of which are manufactured in the United States.

Over the past decade, American companies like ours made significant investments in R&D to be the first to bring to market the next generation of fluorocarbon technologies. Being first to market confers significant benefits upon American manufacturers, workers, and consumers, but only if the transition out of HFCs is done in an orderly and market-friendly manner.

The AIM Act ensures such an orderly transition, and in so doing will, over the next decade, create approximately 33,000 new manufacturing jobs, stimulate approximately \$12.5 billion in additional investment in the U.S. economy, and boost exports of fluorocarbons and related equipment by approximately 25 percent, according to a recent industry study.

Moreover, failure to pass the AIM Act effectively grants these significant economic benefits to foreign competitors, who would welcome and applaud its demise. Making the American chemical industry less competitive will undercut further investment, cost jobs, and undermine American technological leadership.

We would strongly oppose any amendment to the bill that would preempt state programs adopting federal use transition rules since those rules help protect our American investments, give industry certainty, and keep the overall transition away from HFCs on track.

There is little time to waste to seize this opportunity for American innovation and manufacturing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CRH', with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom right.

Charles R. Herring

General Manager

Wittichen Supply Company

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