



March 8, 2023

**SUPPORT SB741 - Public Safety - Refrigerants - Limitations on Use**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club of Maryland support SB741 “Public Safety - Refrigerants - Limitations on Use,” and we thank Senator Jackson for his leadership on this issue. The bill enshrines in Maryland law that substitute refrigerants allowed by the EPA can not be prohibited on the state or local level.

In 2022, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Climate Solutions Now Act, which sets the State on a path toward dramatically reducing our carbon emissions by the year 2031, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. To reach these ambitious but achievable goals, Maryland must take every opportunity to cut our greenhouse gas emissions, especially from the building sector, which is the second leading cause of the State’s climate pollution. SB741 is an important component to reach these goals.

On December 27, 2020, the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act was enacted on the federal level ([42 U.S. Code section 7675](#)) to direct the EPA to regulate the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)- chemicals commonly used in commercial refrigeration, chillers, and stationary air conditioning equipment. The AIM Act directs the EPA to phase down the supply of HFCs, including refrigerants, and authorizes the EPA to restrict the use of HFCs in certain applications to direct the transition to HFC substitutes.

Manufacturers now face a pressing challenge. Building codes in all 50 states must be updated to allow for the use of substitute refrigerants in chillers, air conditioning, and commercial **refrigeration equipment. State building codes set various standards and requirements for what** types of refrigerants and equipment can be used in residential and commercial buildings. This means that under its current code, Maryland could restrict the future use of certain HFC substitutes, creating a risk that new refrigeration and air conditioning equipment containing these HFC substitutes cannot be sold in the state. If this barrier is not removed, it will limit the availability of newer, more climate-friendly refrigeration and air conditioning equipment in Maryland. This bill simply removes the impediment, and ensures that more climate-friendly equipment is allowed and encouraged, and that Maryland is part of the national solution.

The national transition away from HFCs will reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 2.4 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2036 since the global warming potential of the new refrigerants is approximately 75 percent lower than the HFC refrigerants currently being used. The transition is also projected to create 33,000 new manufacturing jobs nationally, sustain 138,400 existing jobs between now and 2027, and support [7500 HVACR jobs](#) in the Maryland region.

We urge a favorable report on SB741.