



The Honorable Henry Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1009

Dear Congressman Waxman,

On May 2, 2010, Heating, Airconditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International (HARDI) sent a letter to all members of the U.S. House of Representatives urging the need to address two major issues before passing H.R. 5019, "The Home Star Retrofit Act of 2010", which we believed overly restricted most professional contractors from promoting, offering, and growing their businesses through the Home Star retrofit program. HARDI, representing over 400 U.S.-based wholesale distributors of high-efficiency heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems and supplies who sell to residential and mechanical HVAC contractors, is pleased to report that important strides have been taken this week to address our concerns with the legislation, and **we now urge you to vote for and pass H.R. 5019 tomorrow.**

The manager's amendment offered by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Waxman that will come to the floor tomorrow with H.R. 5019 includes a key amendment submitted by Congresswoman Herseth-Sandlin requiring the Secretary of Energy to approve or deny alternatives to BPI Accreditation for contractors offering Gold Star rebates within 30 days of submittal. This guarantee that existing and effective contractor qualification programs run by states, utilities, or other organizations, as well as new standards that may be created, will be quickly reviewed and approved enables experienced and trained tradesmen to go to work right away on Gold Star retrofit projects. This should enable thousands of professional contractors to help more homeowners save energy and money while they grow their businesses and hire more technicians.

HARDI's second significant concern expressed in our May 2nd letter was that Sec. 105(a) requiring states' Quality Assurance Frameworks to include use of "certified workforces" was overly restrictive and should be amended to require that all work is supervised or performed by certified technicians. While there was not time to address this issue prior to tomorrow's vote, HARDI and the Home Star Coalition have agreed to work together to better clarify this language when the bill moves to the Senate. HARDI is confident this concern will be addressed with the support of the Coalition before Home Star is enacted, and as such we are anxious for your vote tomorrow to help H.R. 5019 proceed to the Senate where we can get to work on these final improvements.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this important legislation.

Thank you,

Talbot Gee
Vice President