

April 30, 2024

Honorable Kathleen C. Hochul
Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We are writing to you to convey our members' concerns regarding New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)'s proposed approach to HFC phasedown for refrigerators and cooling systems.

New York's business community takes pride in our state's commitment to environmental stewardship, but the current proposal by NYSDEC exceeds the necessary measures outlined by our federal government for phaseout of climate-challenging chemicals like HFCs. The proposed limits are stricter and more immediate than the federal government's recently outlined rules (adopted in 2020 as part of the American Innovation in Manufacturing Act) and will be another financial burden for countless businesses and homeowners across the state, in countless different industries we rely on for everyday life, including our grocery stores, hospitals, schools, homes and more.

The consequences of this proposal could be severe, potentially resulting in significant financial burdens amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars collectively for businesses in terms of new equipment installations, retrofitting, and increased long-term energy costs. Such consequences could significantly impact the local economy, especially for small businesses and municipalities.

We ask the NYSDEC to safeguard New York businesses and homeowners by aligning its rule with the standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and allowing for the continued use of low-climate impact products over the long term. Furthermore, these limits should not apply to the servicing of existing equipment to prevent premature retirement and stranding of functional systems.

We appreciate your steadfast leadership on this crucial matter, and should you wish to delve deeper into any aspect of our concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
Buffalo Niagara Manufacturers Association
Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Business Council of New York State
Capitol Region Chamber of Commerce
Council of Industries of Southeast New York
Food Industry Alliance of New York
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
Manufacturers Alliance of New York State
Manufacturers Association of Central New York
Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier
New York Farm Bureau
NY Construction Materials Association
NYS Association of Convenient Stores
NYS Economic Development Council
National Federation of Independent Business
Rochester Manufacturing and Technology Association
Upstate United