



July 27, 2026

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support H.R. 9886, the Federal Facilities Indoor Air Quality Assessment Act

Dear Representative:

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) is supported by more than 3,500 construction firms engaged in industrial, commercial, residential, architectural and specialty sheet metal and air conditioning construction in both the public and private sectors throughout the United States. On behalf of our membership, I write to express our strongest support for H.R. 9886, the Federal Facilities Indoor Air Quality Assessment Act, introduced by Rep. James Walkinshaw (D-VA) and cosponsored by four longtime champions for safe and healthy indoor air quality, Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Don Beyer (D-VA), and Elenor Holmes Norton (D-DC). This important and bipartisan legislation would assess and improve the indoor air quality of federal buildings nationwide – military and civilian.

Specifically, H.R. 9886 directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a comprehensive review of indoor air quality, ventilation, and HVAC system performance across all federal buildings and facilities, examining:

- Whether federal buildings meet applicable air quality, ventilation, and HVAC standards;
- How agencies monitor, test, and document indoor air quality;
- The frequency and causes of air quality deficiencies;
- Whether agencies effectively identify and correct indoor air hazards; and
- The qualifications and certifications of workers performing HVAC installation, maintenance, and remediation.

GAO would report its findings and recommendations to Congress within 12 months. Agencies found to have material indoor air quality deficiencies would then have six months to submit corrective action plans. We are proud to endorse H.R. 9886, a most innovative and long overdue legislative response to a serious health concern – indoor air quality. While many public officials are speaking out now due to the hazardous smoke covering many states in our nation, these four Members of Congress have advocated for assessing HVAC deficiencies and remediating indoor air quality dangers for many years at the local, state and federal levels, especially in schools, military facilities and all types of public buildings. Our firms are the leaders in the installation of IAQ mechanical systems in existing buildings and facilities and in new public facility construction projects and know well that countless thousands of public employees and the millions of citizens who visit public buildings nationwide will benefit from such a valuable federal effort.



In addition to SMACNA, H.R. 9886 is endorsed by an outstanding coalition of management, labor and technical engineering organizations, including the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART), the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), and the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE).

SMACNA urges your co-sponsorship and vocal support for H.R. 9886. Thank you for your consideration of support for this critically necessary effort to protect the health and well-being of America's public employees and the millions of citizens who visit federal buildings each year.

Sincerely,

Stanley E. Kolbe, Jr.
Executive Director, Government and Political Affairs
SMACNA - Capitol Hill Office
305 Fourth Street, NE | Washington, DC 20002
(202) 547-8202 | skolbe@smacna.org

