



NATIONAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

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Frank L. Powell, P.E.  
Director of Engineering & Indoor Air Quality Program

March 20, 1992

Representative Suzanne M. Bump  
State House  
Room 43  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Bump:

This letter is to support and offer comments on S1159, the proposed indoor air quality bill as revised.

**Comments:**

We fully support the principles espoused in the proposed indoor air quality bill. We are convinced from experience that building systems must always be a part of the initial step in addressing indoor air quality in the non-industrial environment. We also believe that unless the State requires such a process and develops a consistent protocol and approach to investigations as well as requiring follow-up, that indoor air quality will not be addressed in a manner that will protect Massachusetts workers. We further believe that a program will be most appropriately and effectively administered through the Department of Labor and Industries which is already familiar with procedures for investigation and enforcement of health and safety in the industrial work place.

**With regard to specific sections:**

In section 25C, the bill refers to 780 CMR Article 707.1. We understand that as of March 1992, this statute refers to the 1989 BOCA Code as adopted in the Massachusetts State Building Code. In turn, the 1989 BOCA code refers to an older, outdated version of the ASHRAE ventilation code. We strongly urge the State to consider adopting the provisions of ASHRAE 62-1989 as minimum ventilation requirements for all buildings. Further, we believe that the statute and all subsequent regulations be clear in requiring that buildings not only be designed to provide the minimum ventilation rates, but that they require building owners and managers to operate the systems so as to provide the minimum required ventilation at all times during occupancy.

With regard to the penalties required in Section 25E, because the requirements of this law will be new to most building owners, we believe that a grace period might be appropriate or that penalties only be imposed after an initial warning of a violation.

The Energy Management and Indoor Air Quality Professionals

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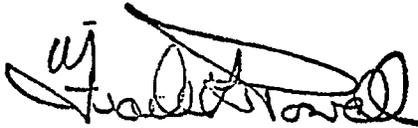
With regard to Sections 25F through 25H, we believe that cigarette smoke contributes to the overall indoor air quality profile of a building. A policy on smoking developed through labor and management cooperation which protects worker's rights is an appropriate part of an overall IAQ program.

**Background:**

The National Energy Management Institute (NEMI) is a not for profit labor management Trust Fund. NEMI has, since 1987 conducted an indoor air quality and energy management training program for sheet metal and air conditioning contractors and sheet metal workers who install the HVAC systems which control and affect our indoor environment. It has now been well documented that most indoor air quality problems can be avoided or corrected by assuring proper design, operation and maintenance of building ventilation systems.

We shall be glad to provide further, more detailed comment at your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank L. Powell". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "F" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Frank L. Powell, P.E.  
Director of Engineering

FLP/mp