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December 19, 2020

The Honorable Charlie Baker  
Governor of Massachusetts  
State House, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

Thank you for everything you have done to protect the Commonwealth's citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your efforts are much appreciated.

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Air Conditioning Association of New England (ACA/NE), a not-for-profit trade association for residential heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration contractors.

ACA/NE represents and serves companies that design, install, service, and repair air conditioning, heating, refrigeration, air purification, ventilating systems, plumbing, piping, sheet metal, and energy management systems of all sizes and complexities. Our membership also includes manufacturers of equipment, wholesalers and distributors of equipment, vocational and technical schools, and others with interest in the residential HVAC/R industry.

Designated as essential workers, HVAC/R contractors have voluntarily worked to keep the Commonwealth's HVAC/R systems working safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the personal risk, HVAC workers have gone into residential homes and small businesses to provide essential comfort and air quality services.

As the COVID-19 vaccines begin to roll out in the U.S., ACA/NE members applaud the plans to provide the first rounds to frontline healthcare workers and highest-risk populations. However, we hope you will consider HVAC/R workers under the next vaccine rollout phase.

While our workforce will continue to practice safety measures, including social distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and increased sanitation, early access to the COVID-19 vaccine will protect the lives of our members and their customers.

We thank you for your consideration. Please know the HVAC/R industry is ready and willing to do whatever we can to spread the word on the vaccines' safety and efficacy, and to communicate the distribution plans.

If you have any questions or need additional information, I can be reached at [cflaherty@acane.org](mailto:cflaherty@acane.org).

Best Regards,

Catherine A. Flaherty,  
ACA/NE Executive Director