

December 18, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Boozman, and Ranking Member Scott,

Congress has an opportunity with pending legislation to help rural businesses, farmers, and ranchers save money on energy bills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve energy resilience. Industrial heat pumps can achieve all of these benefits, but they are not widely used in the United States today. The [Heat Pump Energy Assistance and Training \(HEAT\) Act](#), sponsored by Senator Peter Welch (D-VT) and Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS), would coordinate activities within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help deploy heat pumps in rural communities across America, cutting energy bills and improving resilience.

We are delighted to express our enthusiastic support for the HEAT Act. This legislation aligns closely with our goals and objectives and represents a significant milestone in advancing the adoption of transformative technologies in all parts of the country.

Industrial heat pumps use electricity to raise (or lower) an ambient or existing heat source, such as wastewater used in another part of the facility, to a more useful temperature, often for less cost than traditional process heat sources. For rural communities, increased adoption of these technologies could give farmers a competitive advantage when drying and processing crops, operating a dairy, or space heating. Manufacturers and other rural businesses stand to benefit too by reducing their operating costs, and with widespread adoption could make their communities more resilient to energy price shocks. The HEAT Act offers essential provisions to support farmers, ranchers, and other business owners implementing these technologies in rural communities:

1. **Awareness:** The Act directs coordination between USDA offices to raise awareness about industrial heat pumps and provides vital materials and technical support to rural stakeholders. This initiative will empower individuals and businesses with knowledge about the benefits of industrial heat pumps and the available federal programs to support their adoption.
2. **Technical Understanding:** By supporting improved technical understanding of industrial heat pump applications, the HEAT Act will enhance training and assistance programs at land-grant colleges and universities. This will enable state-level programs to better serve farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses in implementing industrial heat pump technology.
3. **Coordination:** The Act encourages coordination between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy, fostering collaboration that will streamline the implementation of industrial heat pump programs and maximize their impact.
4. **Reporting:** The Act emphasizes transparency and accountability by requiring annual progress reports. These reports will provide valuable insights into the successes and challenges faced in promoting industrial heat pump technology in rural markets.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to supporting the HEAT Act's passage and working collaboratively to advance the use of industrial heat pumps in the United States.

Sincerely,

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
Armstrong International
Beneficial Electrification League
Danfoss
GEA
Johnson Controls
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Nyle Systems
Renewable Thermal Collaborative
Skyven Technologies



American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

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cc:

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives