



WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF PETRA SMELTZER
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

ON BEHALF OF
THE AIR-CONDITIONING, HEATING, AND REFRIGERATION INSTITUTE

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 301
AN ACT RELATIVE TO DIGITAL RIGHT TO REPAIR

BEFORE THE OHIO HOUSE
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 21, 2025

RE: HB 301—Digital Right to Repair Act—Request for Exemption

Chairman Leggett and Members of the Technology and Innovation Committee:

My name is Petra Smeltzer, and I serve as Senior Director of State Government Affairs for the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), which represents over 90% of U.S. manufacturers of residential and commercial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, commercial refrigeration (HVACR) and water heating systems.

AHRI is concerned with the inclusion of HVAC equipment under this legislation, since modern systems incorporate integrated digital controls and IoT technologies for remote monitoring, energy efficiency, and enhanced functionality. HVAC systems integrate advanced components like compressors, coils, fans, thermostats, air filters, and ductwork—all designed to manage temperature, humidity, and air quality. These systems must be serviced by qualified professionals to ensure proper operation, public safety and maintain existing warranties.

HVAC systems are complex and highly specialized. Providing access to original equipment manufacturer (OEM) tools, parts, and manuals is not sufficient, since safe and effective service requires HVAC trained and certified technicians. Since 1990, the Clean Air Act has required US. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 608 certification to service systems with refrigerants. Improper repairs can jeopardize safety and performance and undermine energy efficiency goals.

AHRI Recommended Exemption Language

Because of these concerns, we respectfully request that HVAC and water heating systems be explicitly exempted from OH HB 301 (2025) consistent with exemption language in 2024 Oregon [SB 1596](#) under Section (3) (g) (B) (iii):

This section does not apply to a product or service or equipment that provides heat, ventilation or air conditioning or recharges refrigerant gases.

AHRI appreciates the opportunity to share our views, and we look forward to serving as a resource as you continue deliberations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Petra M. Smeltzer
Senior Director of State Government Affairs
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