

**Environmental Defense Fund * Environmental Investigation Agency
Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development * League of Conservation Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council * Sierra Club**

January 13, 2020

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we urge you to support H.R. 5544, the American Innovation and Manufacturing Leadership Act, bipartisan legislation to phase down harmful hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and simultaneously help U.S. companies lead the world in replacing them with innovative, climate-friendlier alternatives.

Under the 1987 Montreal Protocol and the 1990 Clean Air Act, we successfully phased out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other chemicals that were depleting the ozone layer that protects life on earth from dangerous ultraviolet radiation. U.S. leadership from presidents of both parties, acting with bipartisan Congressional support, was crucial to preventing hundreds of millions of cases skin cancer and untold agricultural losses. CFCs were also long-lived and powerful greenhouse gases.

HFCs were useful as one of the replacements for CFCs, as they don't harm the ozone layer and have lower heat-trapping power, but as worldwide HFC use grows we could be facing another 0.5 degree centigrade of global warming from HFCs alone. In a world now on track for at least a 3°C temperature rise and searching for ways to hold warming to 1.5 or even 2 degrees, we cannot afford to add another half degree of warming on top of everything else.

Fortunately, this is an area of consensus and cooperation between the industries that make and use these chemicals and the environmental community. Industry leaders have pioneered a wide range of alternatives that can do the jobs HFCs do effectively, safely, and economically with much less – and in many cases, nearly zero – impact on the climate. The transition to these alternatives has already begun, but – like the transition away from CFCs – we need the framework of an orderly phase-down under federal law.

H.R. 5544, along with its Senate companion S. 2754, is a bipartisan plan supported by both industry and environmentalists to phase down HFCs in the same orderly manner used to transition from CFCs under the Clean Air Act of 1990. This legislation provides all the legal tools needed to meet our obligations, exercise leadership, and reap commercial rewards, and all under provisions modeled on and integrated with current Clean Air Act requirements applicable to this industry.

But it is critical that we do not wait. Other countries are acting, and other countries' industries are making investments to try to capture the current leadership position of U.S. industry. All of us – environmentalists and industry alike – support enacting this legislation *now*, in order to keep U.S. leadership in all aspects of the transition from HFCs to climate friendlier alternatives.

Sincerely,

Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Investigation Agency
Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development
League of Conservation Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club