

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR  
**PAMELA A. HELMING**  
54TH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**

AGRICULTURE  
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND SMALL BUSINESS  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS  
AND RECREATION  
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING  
RULES  
**MEMBER**  
LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

**CHAIR OF THE  
MINORITY CONFERENCE**

**RANKING MINORITY MEMBER**

HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
INSURANCE  
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON  
RURAL RESOURCES

June 24, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Proposed Amendments to 6 NYCRR Part 494, Hydrofluorocarbon Standards and Reporting

Dear Governor Hochul,

I'm following up on my letter of April 5, 2024 regarding draft hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerant regulations under review by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This letter was co-signed by Senate Minority Leader Rob Ort and several members of our Senate Republican Conference.

Over the last few months, I've spoken with more small business owners from the Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes region in my district, who are very concerned about pending regulations set to begin on January 1, 2025, just several months away. This imminent effective date is creating a great deal of uncertainty for these businesses, including our independent community grocers, neighborhood convenience stores, and HVAC companies.

**These businesses are reasonably asking that the state align its regulations with the federal EPA standards for the phasedown of HFCs.**

As currently written, the state regulations threaten the businesses and jobs vital to our communities and jeopardize both near-term and future investments by these businesses in New York State. I'm deeply concerned about the potentially devastating impacts on the retail food industry and other industries in our state, including healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and residential and commercial construction – as well as the potentially disproportionate effects in our small and rural communities.

District Office: 25 North St., Canandaigua, NY 14424 • (315) 568-9816 • FAX: (585) 393-0825  
Albany Office: Room 711B Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247 • (518) 455-2366 • FAX: (518) 426-6953  
[www.helming.nysenate.gov](http://www.helming.nysenate.gov) • [helming@nysenate.gov](mailto:helming@nysenate.gov)

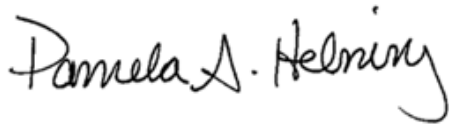


The cost of retrofitting grocery and convenience stores to meet these new standards is in the millions of dollars. I also ask that further consideration be given to supply chain challenges that currently limit the availability of alternative refrigerants and equipment to meet the proposed standards, and beyond that, the availability of trained contractors and technicians.

In addition, we should recognize the energy-efficient investments these businesses have made and continue to make to their operations in support of shared environmental goals.

**As Governor, I know you understand that affordability is the top concern for New York's small businesses, taxpayers, and consumers.** I again ask that New York State pause its imminent effective date for these proposed regulations and consider adopting the federal EPA standards for the phasedown of HFCs. Doing so will protect local businesses and jobs and access to food in New York's communities, while also taking realistic steps to protect the environment.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela A. Helming".

Senator Pamela A. Helming  
54th Senate District  
Member, Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Economic Development and Small Business

cc: Sean Mahar, Interim Commissioner  
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation