



**Public Testimony to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on
LD-226 An Act to Limit the Use of Hydrofluorocarbons to Fight Climate Change**

March 15, 2021

Good morning, Chairman Tucker, and members of the Committee. My name is Jessica Olson. I am Director, Environmental Policy for Honeywell. Honeywell supports LD 226, which bolsters adoption of advanced American technologies by businesses.

HFCs are used throughout the world as refrigerants in air conditioning to cool cars, homes and buildings, in home and commercial refrigeration, in foam insulation, and as aerosol propellants and solvents. While efficient, many HFC products have high global-warming-potential. Because HFCs are used in everyday life, replacing these products with next-generation alternatives can make a positive impact on the environment and human health.

Replacing HFCs with better alternatives is key to achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Maine. Globally, replacing HFCs with low-global-warming-potential (or GWP) alternatives could avoid up to 0.5 degrees Celsius of warming by the end of the century.

American industry has invested well over \$1 billion domestically and employed more than 700,000 US workers to research, develop and implement alternative solutions to high-GWP HFCs. This includes newly constructed manufacturing hubs in the United States to produce such alternatives. This bill will help drive a transition to the low-GWP solutions and promote US leadership in innovation and manufacturing.

Because of this investment, **cost-effective, near drop-in alternatives to HFCs are commercially available today and are ready for widespread adoption.** In addition to lower GWP, technologies using environmentally preferable HFC alternatives are often also more energy efficient than traditional systems, and thus lower customer costs and increase competitiveness. Honeywell continues to work with our customers to ensure a smooth transition to these advanced technologies.

Ten states, including Massachusetts, New York and Vermont, have adopted HFC transition dates. Additional states, including nearby Connecticut and Rhode Island have also committed to taking similar actions. LD-226 has dates that are consistent with the other state programs now in effect, providing certainty and supporting the significant industry investments made to commercialize compliant alternatives.

However, there are two provisions of LD 226 that would undermine this certainty and investment: (1) the waiver provisions of Section 3.C, and (2) the EPA conforming language of Section 6.D. These provisions create significant uncertainty for industry and unnecessarily authorize additional

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greenhouse gas emissions, and should be deleted. As an industry stakeholder, we believe it is important to ensure that all industry players are held to the same transition dates currently proposed by LD-226. Removing these potential exemptions would protect Maine's strong environmental progress and support industry that has invested and prepared to comply with the regulation.

Thank you.