HRAI-Canada Communiqué
on the Canadian Response to US Tariffs

HRAI is a non-profit national trade association of manufacturers, wholesalers and contractors in the Canadian heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industry.

The products and services of the HVACR industry are vital to life in Canada. HRAI's members play an essential role in keeping Canadians comfortable and healthy in their indoor environments year-round. We ensure that indoor comfort systems, ventilation, refrigeration and controls operate effectively in hospitals and health care settings, in food processing, storage and preservation and in residential and commercial heating and cooling applications.

With the prospect of tariffs on Canadian products entering the United States – or even a "review" of the current trade relationship now looming, we understand that the Government of Canada may be compelled to take appropriate actions – up to and including retaliatory tariffs on US goods entering Canada -- to protect Canadian jobs and to minimize the potentially devastating impacts of US tariffs on the Canadian economy.

At a time when a growing number of Canadians are struggling to manage rising costs of living, however, these retaliatory actions might well create unwanted hardship on this side of the border, particularly if the scope includes essential goods and services such as HVACR.

We urge the Government of Canada to take a thoughtful approach in any discussions with our friends south of the border. This means:

1. Negotiating vigorously and creatively to avert tariffs altogether. Like many other sectors, our industry has pushed for years to maintain healthy cross-border trade with minimal restrictions and well-aligned regulatory regimes. Our industry believes this approach should be maintained to ensure the continued mutual benefits that flow from this historic relationship.
2. If retaliatory measures are contemplated, we urge the Government of Canada to exempt the products of our sector due to their essential nature.

HRAI and its members value the longstanding Canada-US trade relationship that has enriched our two great nations, and we will work as needed to support the continuation of this relationship.