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**MIACCA June 2017 Newsletter**

1 message

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*Working hard to Protect, Promote & Educate our  
Profession*

## NEWSLETTER, JUNE 2019



**MICHIGAN**  
AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS  
ASSOCIATION

### **Edition Highlights**

- [MIACCA Calendar of Events](#)
- [MIACCA meets with MPSC](#)
- [Trump to end steel and aluminum tariffs with Mexico and Canada.](#)
- [Construction Code Meeting - MIACCA investigating motions not included in minutes](#)
- [Why going solar is a bright idea](#)
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*Message from  
President*

*Bill Krestakos*



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## **Michigan Legislative & Regulatory Update**

What could be better  
than a cool breeze on a



## MIACCA meets with MPSC

Now that the utilities have been cleared to expand their Value Added Programs and Services, such as the Appliance Service Program, the Michigan Public Service Commission is responsible for the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Utility competition will now become a very substantial threat to our industry.

MIACCA is committed to making sure our industry needs and concerns are represented so on Friday, May 24, 2019 MIACCA President Bill Krestakos, MIACCA Executive Director M.J. D'Smith, MIACCA members Doug Young of Behler-Young and Brad Bartholomew of Bartholomew Heating & Cooling along with MEECA Executive Director David Gard met with the Michigan Public Service Commission Chairman Sally Talberg and her staff to address these important issues:

1. Value Added Products and Services (VAPS)
  - a. Currently no rule or directive as to classifying information as confidential
2. DTE/Consumer Annual Reports a. Unredacted Reports to be public
3. Code of Conduct Section 2 under 460.10ee
  - a. Who decides if the new product or service offerings will harm or unduly restrain free trade in an unregulated market?
  - b. What is the process to challenge a regulated utilities product or service offering prior to that offering?
  - c. How cost prohibitive or restrictive will that process be?
4. Energy Ombudsman Vacancy
  - a. Who is going to ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct?
5. Midstream Rebates on Residential HVAC

hot summer day? How about an air conditioner that works when you need it to! The seasons are changing again and now it's time to get ready for the warmer temperatures.

Remind your customers of some of the more basic issues of poor air conditioner performance that can be fixed by changing the filter or removing obstructions from air vents, but always remember to caution them on other matters that could require your professional expertise. As many of you already know, 75% of air conditioners are improperly charged. If a refrigerant charge is off 10 % that can increase energy use by as much as 30%. That is why it is important to have a professional tune up every year.

Our goal is always to provide a safe environment for ourselves and our customers. Remember that a happy customer is a repeat customer. It is also a great idea to make sure we as contractors are up to date on all of the equipment we will be working on as well as the codes. MIACCA is a great resource for these things so be sure to subscribe to our email alerts for training we may be offering and legislation that we are working on to improve our industry.

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## **Trump to end steel and aluminum tariffs with Mexico and Canada**

U.S. trade negotiators have reached a deal with officials from Canada and Mexico to lift the 25 percent steel and 10 percent aluminum tariffs on imports from those countries. The steel and aluminum tariffs have been a sticking point from Congressional leaders in trying to get the U.S., Mexico, Canada Agreement (USMCA) approved by Congress, however removing the tariffs does not guarantee the measure will be approved this year.

The tariffs will no longer be applied to imports from Canada and Mexico starting over the weekend.

Some trade policy experts were worried the deal would cap the amount of imports from Canada and Mexico, however the final deal does not contain quotas. The deal does require both countries to prevent other countries, especially known dumpers of cheap steel and aluminum, from sending product through Canada and Mexico to avoid the tariffs.

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## **Construction Code Meeting - MIACCA investigating motions not included in minutes**

MIACCA attended the April 17, 2019 Bureau of Construction codes meeting beginning with a denied request for the Construction Code's interpretation stating that the applicant must appeal the enforcing agency's decision.

A closed session was then held for purposes of discussion with legal counsel to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute under Section 13 (1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, specifically information or records subject to attorney client privilege.

After the following Open Session and before the meeting was adjourned, then current Chairman William Benoit put forth several motions such as a request to record future meetings, a motion for updates from the bureau, supported by Misiewicz, and a motion for a representative of the bureau to attend all appeals which were not officially recorded.

As a result, MIACCA is filing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request regarding these motions and why they

*As always stay safe and keep up the great work!*



### **Why going solar is a bright idea**

The sun has fueled life on earth for millions of years, and today's world is no different. Solar technologies are shaping how we harness the sun's power and produce electricity and helping more people discover the benefits of solar energy in their everyday lives. Here in the Great Lakes State, we're doing our part to [help Michigan residents use the sun](#) to help them achieve greater energy independence and reliability for their families. And true to form, Michiganders are getting all the benefits they can out of this hot commodity.

By converting the sun's energy into electricity, solar photovoltaic (PV) systems offer a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels like crude oil, coal and natural gas — all while reducing greenhouse gases (GHG). In the long term, power generated from your own solar power system not only decreases the amount of energy you purchase from your electric utility, but helps you save on your monthly electricity bill.

were left out on the Chairman's final meeting.

[Read Official Minutes Here](#)

## MIACCA files comments on MPSC VAPS Case No. U-18326 (Update)

MIACCA continues to work hard for you and our industry. MIACCA submitted a letter to the Michigan Energy Ombudsman indicating that we are deeply concerned that in [Case No. U-18326](#) the Michigan Public Service Commission staff is allowing some utilities that voluntarily choose to offer their "value added products and services" (VAPS) under MCL 460.10ee(2), to file all or portions of the annual report as required by MCL 10ee(6)(c) and (15) "confidentially" and or "under seal", with most of the statutorily required information being redacted and unavailable to the public.

Even though the MPSC will still allows companies to file reports confidentially, MIACCA was able to obtain the reports through a Freedom Of Information Act request (FOIA) to LARA. We will continue to work toward getting a more direct method of obtaining information.

[Read Consumers Energy Annual Report](#)

[Read MPSC Data Access & Privacy Issue Brief](#)

[Read Full Letter Here](#)

## Energy Ombudsman Position Still Available

MIACCA recently discovered that this vacant position is not a Governor appointed position, but rather a civil service position that an individual has to apply for. We have stressed the need of this vacancy to be filled to LARA Director Hawks, MPSC Chairman Sally Talberg and to government offices stressing the need for this position to be filled.

We will continue to support the need of the Energy Ombudsman as they are the voice for small business. We will continue to keep you updated.

This popular renewable energy source is becoming increasingly affordable. Through 2019, eligible Michigan residents — those who own their own solar energy system and have income tax liability — can take advantage of a 30 percent [federal tax credit](#) on their gross solar system cost.

If you haven't already considered going solar in your home or business, we're here to shed light on the reasons you should.

[Continue Reading](#)

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## Product Spotlight

### THE SUNSOURCE® HOME ENERGY SYSTEM

A SunSource® Home Energy System is the simplest way to integrate solar energy into your home, and it can substantially reduce your heating and cooling costs, which typically make up about half of a home's utility bill.

Solar modules capture energy from the sun and send it to your Lennox® solar-ready air conditioner or heat pump.

[Learn More](#)

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Not a member yet?

Contact us today and find out how you can join and get involved!

Join today at [miacca.org](http://miacca.org)

Attached are links to articles provided for you by Federated Insurance designed to be short awareness pieces for member education:

**Risk Management Corner** – Property/Casualty and/or Workers Compensation subjects

**HR Question of the Month** – a Human Resources-related question and answer from independent HR legal professionals

**It's Your Life** – concepts related to Life and Disability insurance

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