



July 16, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1301 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
[Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0312](#)  
[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

## Re: Public Comments Supporting CUSER Cold Storage AIM Act Petition

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

America’s food supply system is crucial to providing wholesome, nutritious food and many other products to families across our country at affordable prices. Refrigeration plays a critical role in ensuring our country has access to safe and affordable foods. FMI supports the Coalition for the Use of Safe and Efficient Refrigerants (“CUSER”) petition to put the cold storage sector in the correct 700-GWP category under the AIM Act along with comparable sectors like data centers, rather than the 150-GWP category that effectively disallows use of non-flammable, low-GWP A1 refrigerants. Adjustment of the cold storage sector rule will be consistent with Administrator Zeldin’s March 12, 2025 deregulatory order and President Trump’s executive orders.<sup>1</sup>

As the food industry association, FMI works with and on behalf of the entire industry to advance a safer, healthier, and more efficient consumer food supply chain. FMI brings together a wide range of members across the value chain — from retailers that sell to consumers, to producers that supply food and other products, as well as the wide variety of companies providing critical services — to amplify the collective work of the industry. More information about our organization is available at [www.FMI.org](http://www.FMI.org).

### General Comments

Cold storage facilities are a core element of the refrigerated “cold chain” that provides fresh, affordable food to 340 million Americans in this country and our markets abroad. Cold storage facilities support the food, pharmaceutical, health care, cosmetics, biotechnology, chemical, retail, agriculture, and other sectors. As such, cold storage warehouses must reliably maintain temperatures from -20°F to 55°F for refrigerated and frozen storage. In order to achieve

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<sup>1</sup> *Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*, Exec. Order No. 14,192, 90 Fed. Reg. 9,065 (Jan. 31, 2025); Press Release, U.S. EPA, *Trump EPA Takes Action to Lower Costs for American Families at the Grocery Store by Reconsidering Burdensome Technology Transition Rule* (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-takes-action-lower-costs-american-families-grocery-store-reconsidering>



these temperatures, cold storage refrigeration systems use 1000's of pounds of refrigerant charge and rely on availability of safe and efficient refrigerants to run these systems.

EPA's current Technology Transition regulations under the AIM Act threaten to restrict access to safe, non-flammable A1 refrigerants starting in 2026, only months from now. This not only impacts America's access to fresh food, but also many thousands of jobs created by the cold chain. Losing access to low-GWP HFCs and blends currently used in cold storage systems would be highly disruptive. At the same time, EPA should not force the cold storage sector to go backwards to older refrigerants that the industry has been moving away from because of safety concerns. EPA should also not force the sector into refrigerants such as flammable HFO chemicals or CO2 systems that have proven to be unreliable at the scale of cold storage warehouse systems. Although EPA predicted that alternative refrigerants would be available by 2026, that has not been the reality in the market.

We encourage EPA to make needed adjustments to its rules to ensure that the cold chain can use the safest, most efficient and affordable refrigeration systems to keep food prices reasonable for American families and to protect American jobs and nutrition.

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for considering our comments. Please contact us at the email address below if you have any questions about the concerns raised in these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Harris".

Stephanie Harris  
Chief Regulatory Officer and General  
Counsel