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## **Support for Reach Code in Palo Alto and other cities**

As a Palo Alto resident, I support our city's new building code that will eliminate fossil gas pipes in new construction. The time has come to phase out this outmoded energy system. Therefore we should not burden owners of new homes with having to make the inevitable changes to remove these dangerous and polluting systems.

San Bruno was NOT an accident -- it was an accident waiting to happen! With much of the fossil gas infrastructure in our state approaching 60 -100 years of age, it's not a surprise that we have leaking pipes. And having put underground pipes in the unstable terrain of our earthquake prone state, there is even more likelihood of leaks in these pipes that are threaded under the streets throughout California. From a safety perspective alone, it's essential that we phase out this outmoded use of fossil gas as a way to heat our homes and water. The contribution of such leaks to our climate change problem is also a significant concern.

Air quality studies are now finding that fossil gas is not as safe as we have been led to believe. Research on indoor air quality has found levels of formaldehyde -- a by-product of burning methane ("natural") gas -- in kitchens where gas is used for cooking -- and at levels that can significantly contribute to asthma among the children who live there. Switching gas stoves for electric induction cooktops can help alleviate the increase of asthma among children -- especially among low-income children who are less likely to live in modern homes with efficient cooking equipment.

Stopping the installation of new gas pipelines into new construction is the first step in being able to shut down these old and leaky systems. Palo Alto and the other communities like neighboring Mountain View are starting this process and will allow for training of businesses and technicians in how to install and utilize heat pumps and other technologies. It's time to get started on this change. Please approve the decisions of these forward-thinking cities that are aiming to improve the safety of their communities, as well as the health of our planet.