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All-electric Title 24 by 2022

If California sincerely wants to make progress on transitioning to clean energy, it needs to end fossil-fuel heating of our buildings and domestic water. Energy building codes must be guided by science. No grounds exist for claiming, as in the past, that only modest code updates are acceptable so as to prevent undo burdens on the market. Until the cost of climate disruption is monetized realistically, the marketplace will never respond in the ways needed to preserve a livable planet. So combustion fuels must be eliminated from homes & buildings by decree.

Given the expected boom in new construction over the next couple of decades and the longevity of building stock, the fuel-switching transition to 100%-electrification must begin with the Title 24 energy code update next year. Opponents of that transition will present their case armored with (current) law. They will speak of the harm suffered by their businesses due to so-called arbitrary fuel-switching regulations.

Proponents of fuel-switching base their case on science, human rights, and ecocide. Fossil-fuel combustion (no matter how efficient) still adds CO₂ to the atmosphere. Human rights will be set back because the health and economic interests of most Californians will suffer. Biodiversity will significantly diminish, probably harming agriculture as it unwinds.

Jurisprudence is founded on precedent and past experience. It is backward looking. Science is powerful because it is the only system we have that is capable of predicting future events reliably. It is forward-looking. Laws as currently written (absent rigorous rules to monetize future damage due to current emissions) do not capture the vital elements of risk and impairment posed by heat-trapping gases. Laws protecting investors are therefore blind to future catastrophes and their consequential infringements on human rights and indeed all life on Earth. Science says the time to cleanup our act is now. That's why, as of this date, over 30 local building codes in California already require or encourage all-electric new construction. Sufficient justification exists for the CEC to establish a single statewide all-electric building standard for new construction immediately.