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AB 3232

AB 3232 (Friedman), which lay the groundwork for the electrification of all buildings in the state, regardless of the cost or impact to actual communities. While this bill does not explicitly mandate electrification of all buildings, it is very clear that this is the intent. AB 3232 represent an end to consumer choice of energy options and would misallocate utility ratepayer funds to measures that are not cost-effective. We believe Californians should have the right to choose the energy and appliances they use in their homes and businesses. The Chamber believe there are better, more cost-effective ways to clean our air and protect the environment. Bearing in mind that the majority of Californians currently use natural gas as their preferred energy source for cooking, space and water heating, going all-electric could increase annual utility bills almost \$900 more than in mixed-fuel homes. Most families cannot afford to shoulder this undue and onerous financial burden. Similarly, businesses forced into all electric commercial buildings would be faced with higher energy costs that they would likely pass through to consumers. The costs of goods and services will rise as a result, increasing the cost of living even further. These are policies that Californians simply cannot afford. We are supportive of cost-effective methods to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and protect our environment. However, according to the California Air Resources Board, buildings represent only 11% of the state's annual GHG emissions; direct use of natural gas in those buildings represents an even smaller share " 7.5%. Clearly, this bill represents a heavy-handed mandate that would spend enormous sums of public and private money chasing a small amount of emissions reductions. California is over regulated, and lawmakers continue to increase cost to consumers and business where we see business closing and leaving the State respectfully The Chamber requests the CEC not implement AB 3232.