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I support full decarbonization

The IEPR has long been a critical document guiding energy policy in California, and its potential to effect needed changes is more important than ever. The recent workshop on building electrification highlighted the critical need for quick and thorough decarbonization in the building sector. Researchers, staff, local governments, non-profits, academics, and public utilities all agree on the need and importance, while only the legacy investor owned utilities (or those paid to support their interests) continue to argue otherwise.

While the focus of research and presentations on building decarbonization has been on the availability and costs of technology and the workforce development potential, a critical piece missing has been the intense costs associated with natural gas infrastructure. SMUD and others have documented the extremely high costs of extending more natural gas infrastructure, while cities, NGOs, and the State of California have all identified the high rates of leakage from existing natural gas transmission and distribution systems. Natural gas is a relic of the past, is costly to build and maintain, creates significant health and safety risks, and is unnecessary as technology and practice have created viable alternatives. Public policy must adapt to these changes and reflect the true interests and needs of Californians - ending the reliance on natural gas and building the clean economy through electrifying buildings.