

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	18-IEPR-01
Project Title:	2018 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update
TN #:	226790
Document Title:	William Weihl Comments Support for aggressive action on building electrification
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	William Weihl
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	2/19/2019 10:34:45 AM
Docketed Date:	2/19/2019

Comment Received From: William Weihl

Submitted On: 2/19/2019

Docket Number: 18-IEPR-01

Support for aggressive action on building electrification

I am writing to express my support for aggressive action to support and accelerate building electrification across the state of California.

I spent the last 14 years leading sustainability and clean energy work at Google and then at Facebook. In the course of that work, I led efforts to decarbonize the companies' operations, including both energy efficiency work (in offices and data centers) and clean energy work (esp. procurement of clean energy at scale).

We are making progress (albeit still not quite fast enough) on clean energy deployment to decarbonize the electricity grid. However, there is still an enormous amount of natural gas used in buildings, for space heating and cooling, for heating water, for cooking, and other miscellaneous uses. The combustion of gas for these purposes leads to CO2 emissions; leaks throughout the system lead to methane emissions, compounding the global warming impact of these uses of NG. We need to change course rapidly on the use of NG in buildings.

I strongly support efforts to decarbonize buildings, in part through aggressive electrification. We need to change building codes to eliminate the use of NG in new buildings soon - and need to design policies that will do the same for existing buildings over the next 2 decades.

I encourage you to resist efforts by the fossil-fuel industry to scale back and slow down building-electrification efforts in California. California is leading the world in climate action, and needs to continue to do so. Delays in our progress will only make it that much harder to address the worst impacts of climate change.