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*Comment Received From: Julian Canete*  
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**Elimination of Natural Gas as Fuel Source**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



December 10, 2019

David Hochschild, Chairman  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Hochschild:

California is the consistent leader in the country and most of the world in the area of climate change and efforts to combat the ill effects of greenhouse gases that plague our state and nation. The effort to save the planet is vital and everyone has a part to play in this fight. We recently heard about the push within California to eliminate natural gas as a fuel source and customer option. We **are shocked to learn that this discussion is happening without truly engaging the public directly and having a thorough discussion** about this possibility and potential options and impacts that consumers need to consider.

You are keenly aware of the cost of living struggle in California and how difficult it is for hard working families and individuals to make ends meet each month. The harsh reality is that housing, transportation and utility costs are an unavoidable cost each month and increases in these sectors are a direct burden for most families in the state. People who have dual fuel residences (electric and natural gas) are benefiting from the fact that they can use natural gas to cook, for laundry and to cool and heat their home for a relatively cheap cost. The cost of electricity continues to rise and people that reside in the hotter climate zones of the state are heavily burdened each month by the rising electric bills which are being fueled by a combination of legislative mandates and new programs associated with aspects such as wildfires prevention costs.

The push to ban natural gas also ignores the impacts of this potential move on the restaurant sector. The number of small restaurants that are sole proprietor owned in California is growing and all of these restaurants acknowledge that the sector is dependent on natural gas to prepare the meals that their customers request and enjoy. Switching them from natural gas to all electric kitchens would not be easy nor desired in most cases. More importantly, the cost increases that would occur due to a natural gas ban would likely lead to restaurant closures.

The need for a significant conversation with the California community is vital before the state continues planning the demise of natural gas. In the end, the collective effort of households and businesses is necessary if we are going to achieve the state's climate objectives. We cannot fail in this effort, and we need to find a way to win that balances customer needs, and cost, with the overall plan to achieve the goals.

Respectfully,

**JULIAN CAÑETE**  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
CALIFORNIA HISPANIC  
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

**EDWIN LOMBARD**  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
CALIFORNIA BLACK  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**PAT FONG KUSHIDA**  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC  
CAMBER OF COMMERCE

cc: Vice Chairwoman Jenea A. Scott, California Energy Commission