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January 26, 2020

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California Energy Commission

Dear Chair David Hochschild, Vice Chair Janea Scott, and Commissioners Douglas, McAllister, and Monahan,

This letter is in follow-up to our public comment at today's CEC workshop.

Mothers Out Front, a growing grassroots movement of 35,000 mothers and others mobilizing for a livable climate for all children, with over 6000 California supporters, urges you to **move now towards adopting a single, all-electric baseline for all building types, in the next code cycle**. All-electric buildings are cheaper to build and operate, better for public health, and critical to protect us from the climate crisis. All electric buildings are also critical for equity and health in our public schools and public housing.

Waiting three more years to make this shift would not only miss an opportunity to unleash a faster, cheaper way to build housing in the Golden State, it would also cost us Californians over **\$1 billion in unnecessary gas infrastructure**, and lock us into **3 million tons additional carbon emissions** by 2030.

We commend you for your previous hearing on gas stove pollution and indoor air quality, a big concern of ours, particularly during this time of sheltering in place. A study Mothers Out Front co-published with PSR, RMI and the Sierra Club on **Health Effects of Gas Stove Pollution** demonstrates that gas stoves pollute indoor air with nitrogen dioxide and other toxins and elevate risks of asthma and other respiratory diseases. **This is a climate justice issue** because low-income families tend to live in smaller spaces with less ventilation, and have less ability to switch to all-electric appliances, so are exposed to more of those toxic fumes.

Knowing how detrimental gas is to our health, especially the health of children with developing lungs, and how dangerous gas is for our safety, and how destructive methane is to our climate, it makes no sense to continue to build new buildings with outdated gas infrastructure.

We hope you will act with urgency to help address the public health and climate crises we are facing, and accelerate our very necessary, and beneficial, transition to all-electric buildings.

Finally, the CEC would save our supporters and other advocates many hours of time if we did not have to work with each individual city one by one to pass electric reach codes, asking city councils and residents to become experts on the intricacies of building electrification. We are looking to you to blaze the way to a healthy and climate-safe future for our children and families.

Thank you for your time and for this important meeting. We need to be able to look toward the future knowing we've done everything in our power to preserve a livable planet for all children.

The eyes of us moms and our children—and the world—are on you. Please act with the urgency this moment requires and prioritize public health and safety and climate justice by implementing an all-electric base code in 2022.

Thank you,
Linda Hutchins-Knowles
California Senior Organizer
Mothers Out