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Comment Received From: Rebecca Franke
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Please Require New Buildings Be All Electric

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

R. Franke Comment: Docket #: 19-BSTD-03 Project Title: 2022 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking

Please Require New Buildings Be All Electric

I have reviewed the proposed updates to the building code and am surprised at how weak they are. In light of the climate crisis, we must begin to retreat from our reliance on fossil fuels. However, this draft would encourage dependence on natural gas by permitting new gas lines to continue to be laid, increasing construction costs of much needed housing, and specifying only one electric appliance in a new residence. Why would the state of California encourage continued dependence on natural gas when, aside from its harm to the climate, studies have increasingly shown its harmful effects when burned indoors?

The need for a more aggressive code is personal for me. I very much want to minimize, if not totally eliminate, reliance on natural gas in my older home. This is an expensive proposition, but given the lack of state initiative to help retrofit existing structures amidst an increasingly destabilizing climate, necessary. Prices for electric heat pump water heaters and space heaters, induction stoves, and other energy saving electric appliances can decline with greater demand. That demand can be boosted by the Commission ensuring that a strong all-electric code is ready in 2022.

You have the power to act now, not 2025 or later. Please do so.