



Patrick C. Woodcock  
Commissioner, DOER  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020  
Boston, MA 02114

3/6/22

Dear Commissioner Woodcock,

We don't need to repeat the main arguments about the opt-in net zero stretch code. We are sure you have already heard them. But we would like to add a few comments.

We are a local group, 350 MetroNorth, that works hard on climate related issues. We have worked on the process that created the Next Generation legislation that passed into law in March 2021. You can guess that we are amazed that a proposed net zero stretch code could allow for the installation of fossil fuel infrastructure. That appears rather oxymoronic.

To achieve the goals in the 2050 Roadmap is daunting indeed, but necessary. For example, to retrofit all the existing houses in the state that use gas, oil or propane to be all electric by 2050, as called for, will be extremely hard. In comparison, enacting an opt-in net zero stretch code that does not allow fossil fuels is comparatively easy.

A fossil fuel free code will not be a shock to our energy system. Nothing will happen until some municipalities opt for it. After that, nothing will happen until building permits are pulled. Even after that it will only impact a small percent of the building stock until many years have gone by. Change from this will be gradual, but nonetheless important.

We urge you to ensure that the coming net zero stretch code does not allow for any fossil fuel installations. We believe it would be desirable for the "standard" updated stretch code to disallow new fossil fuel infrastructure as well.

Sincerely,

Sue Doubler, Valerie Walton, Tad Hitchcock, Bruce Macomber, Mary Stock, Cynthia Randall, Fritzie Nace, Steve Forcucci, John Brown, Monte Pearson, Martha Simon, Hugh Wright, Alan Field, Donna Wainwright.

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