

Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

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To: STRETCHCODE (ENE)
Subject: BUILDING CODE COMMENTS

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I used to live in Andover where in 2018 a horrific gas explosion destroyed homes, businesses and caused death. For months afterward, many residents and businesses of Andover and Lawrence suffered because of this avoidable accident. Families had no power, no heat. Businesses closed.

We should not be burning fossil fuels in our homes. It is time to stop creating new opportunities for disaster.

Decarbonizing our buildings is crucial for ensuring a livable, breathable future for everyone.

A true net zero building does not allow for on-site combustion of fossil fuels.

The revised draft of the specialized stretch code still allows fossil fueled buildings. Allowing fossil fuels perpetuates public health risks and keeps utility bills high, especially for people living in poorly constructed homes. Allowing fossil fuels in new buildings also creates another generation of existing buildings that will soon need to be retrofitted with electrified heating at significantly greater expense, burdening our workforce and taxpayers. This strategy will drag our economy down and leave MA out of the clean energy economy boom that is already happening.

I demand DOER put forward a true net zero specialized stretch code that we will work to align with investments in workforce development and the stimulation of the clean energy economy in MA.

Time is critical – we need to act now to insure a livable future for our children.

Respectfully,
Jodi MacDonald

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