

## Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

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**From:** Edward McIntyre <emcintyre1@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 August 2022 11:35 AM  
**To:** STRETCHCODE (ENE)  
**Subject:** Building Code Comments - request to give testimony in 8/8 virtual hearing.

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Hello  
If possible, I would like to provide live testimony during this afternoon's hearing.  
My testimony is part of this email  
Thank you

Thank you for all your efforts in creating these revised building codes, and in incorporating *some* of the improvements that have been suggested in the past. However, there is more work to be done.

My name is Ted McIntyre. I live in Franklin MA.

I have been a climate activist since the early 2000's. I have seen many topics and proposals rise and fall in those decades. From the Regional Greenhouse Gas initiative to large offshore wind farms, ideas that originally seemed crazy or impractical have repeatedly come to be seen as inevitable, valuable and desirable. That is the case today, where homes that operate without natural gas and only with electricity seem to be the preserve of the most ardent and passionate people. My message is that this is an illusion. In the not too distant future, fully electrified homes will be commonplace, and we will wonder why we ever accepted dangerous, toxic natural gas into our homes, or allowed our most vulnerable people and communities to be exposed to risks of methane.

The DOER is currently at the fulcrum of the transition to full home electrification, and the specialized building code is an opportunity to speed the needed change. The climate bill currently on the Governor's desk provides conditions under which

self-selecting towns can experiment and provide guidance to the rest of us on the best way to electrify our buildings. You should pay careful attention to the intent of the MA legislature in their acceptance of a non-fossil pathway for the specialized code.

The specialized building code, which would be the basis for these vanguard town's efforts, should not include a fossil fuel pathway. Allowing natural gas or propane in this context, under a tortured logic that defines the 'net-zero status of a *building*' in terms of the '*grid's*' cleanliness, is like insisting that your EV be equipped with a special harness so it can be pulled by a horse in an emergency. It is simply out of character with the state of technology. A fossil fuel pathway in the specialized code is a sop to a dying industry and will only delay the transition that, in the future, will seem foreordained and obvious to those looking in hindsight. We need a specialized stretch energy code that protects the health of our most vulnerable residents, by eliminating the fossil fuel pathway for new construction and requiring all building types be constructed all-electric. A net zero home is one that is affordable to heat and cool, has healthy indoor air due to all electric cookstoves, and has access to renewable energy .

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

Thank you

Edward McIntyre