

Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

From: Suzanne Ryan <suzeryan01@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 7 August 2022 10:56 AM
To: STRETCHCODE (ENE)
Subject: Building code comments

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

I remember hearing, at least 20 years ago, warnings about climate change bringing an onset of flooding, more severe storms and potential epidemics.

Well, here we are.

I write this during the second heat advisory on Cape Cod this summer. Once a rare event here, this second advisory is expected to last 4 days.

I don't typically have respiratory problems but my breathing pattern is more labored right now. My normally healthy elderly husband became disoriented the other day, forgetting he was still at the car maintenance shop and not his next stop, the takeout pizza place.

Just a few weeks ago, the UK hit an unheard of 100+ degrees.

We as a society, can't afford to move like turtles anymore.

Our government must do everything possible to mitigate this crisis.

I'm begging DOER to take this threat seriously and start implementing measures that actually help us meet our first fossil fuel reduction benchmark for 2030.

This country desperately needs a stretch energy code that protects the health of our most vulnerable residents, by prohibiting fossil fuel infrastructure and mandating that all new construction be designed as all-electric.

The current bill sitting on the Governor's desk is weak in addressing this.

I've heard it argued in my own community that fossil fuels are inevitable for a smooth transition to all-electric buildings.

My understanding is that this isn't true. In fact, the only inevitability here is the need to end fossil fuel emissions. Putting it off until tomorrow is pushing the envelope and potentially sabotaging the goal to save the planet before it's too late. It's also a waste of tax dollars in expensive retrofits for something we can do more affordably now. I'd even argue that in delaying, we would need that money to address a more dire scenario, say a reserve for climate-related health or catastrophic weather emergencies?

Bureaucracy's proclivity to move slowly might be ok in stable circumstances; not so much during crisis. Let's be clear: the crisis is upon us.

I thank you for reading this and ask that you mandate a proper stretch code for net zero fossil fuel emissions in ALL construction moving ahead.

If not now, when?

Sincerely
Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian
Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee

		Division of Fisheries and Wildlife 1 Rabbit Hill Road Westborough, MA 01581