

Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

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Sent: Sunday, 7 August 2022 12:16 AM
To: STRETCHCODE (ENE)
Subject: BUILDING CODE COMMENTS

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Dear Commissioner Woodcock, Secretary Card, and Secretary Kennealy,

I am a mother and an MIT-educated engineer. I see the stark science of climate change and the effect of the feedback loops of excessive carbon in the atmosphere which is leading to not just climate change, but accelerating climate change. I see the inequities in society that destabilize society and I am terrified for my daughters' future. They deserve a future where some are not left behind and where they can count on a stable climate.

I am writing to ask that DOER develop a specialized stretch energy code that ensures the Commonwealth can meet building sector emissions targets while also making buildings a core climate mitigator and protector of our health. Please eliminate all fossil fuel pathways for new construction and renovations.

As the state accelerates a clean energy transition, we cannot afford to leave out utility burdened residents who live in frontline and environmental justice communities. Towards this end, I urge the DOER to eliminate the fossil fuel pathway in the current draft of the specialized opt-in code. By allowing fossil fuels, the state will certainly saddle low income residents, who are more likely to be living in poorly constructed homes, with the high costs of heating with fossil fuels while the wealthy transition to safer, cleaner energy.

The revised draft of the specialized stretch code still allows fossil fuel in buildings. Allowing fossil fuels in new buildings will just create another generation of existing buildings that will soon need to be retrofitted with electrified heating at significantly greater expense. This is unacceptable.

We must ensure that low-income ratepayers are not burdened with rising fossil fuel prices during the clean energy transition. Local and state policies must work in coordination with a true net zero stretch energy code to prevent this from happening. We will need expanded workforce training and incentivized heat pump retrofits for low- and moderate-income ratepayers so that they can share the benefits of clean energy-efficient home heating systems and the clean energy economy boom. Energy-burdened communities will benefit most from energy-efficient affordable housing and declining emissions.

I demand that DOER ensure that vulnerable residents are prioritized in the clean energy transition, and that fossil fuel pathways are removed or allowed under only a very limited set of conditions.

Sincerely,

Renu Bostwick

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