

## Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

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**From:** Brittany Gutermuth <brittany.gutermuth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 2:01 PM  
**To:** STRETCHCODE (ENE)  
**Subject:** BUILDING CODE COMMENTS

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Hello,

I am a resident of Southamptton MA and a Mass Audubon Climate Champion. Please consider allowing communities to get a head-start on the 2050 net-zero carbon goal by allowing (and better yet, promoting) fossil-fuel-free requirements for new construction.

- The Legislature requires the state to achieve net-zero emissions statewide by 2050. That means emissions from all sectors, including heating and cooling residential and commercial buildings, need to be drastically reduced, and reach net zero.
- Buildings built today will still be in use in 2050. If they're not fossil fuel free now, we will have to pay to retrofit them sometime in the next 28 years.
- DOER's specialized "net zero" code allows new construction of all types to install new fossil fuel infrastructure. At a time where we need to be removing fossil fuel heating and appliance systems from our homes and businesses, setting up a system where they will continue to be added in communities who don't want them, in buildings that don't need them, is digging the hole we've got to climb out of deeper.
- **Our ask:** allow cities and towns who adopt the specialized net zero energy code to require fossil-fuel-free paths to code compliance for new buildings.
- Building with heat pumps and electric-only appliances adds negligible cost to construction, and will save homebuyers and homeowners money right away on utility bills. Electrical pre-wiring does not go far enough.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brittany Gutermuth

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