

## Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

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**From:** Christopher Kowalski <christopherdk52@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 July 2022 5:15 PM  
**To:** STRETCHCODE (ENE); Christopher Kowalski  
**Subject:** Comments July 22 Westborough, MA

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I am requesting the ability to speak during the public comment period on July 22.

I feel that I have a unique perspective with regards to the stretch code and how it applies to my town of Charlton.

- While I understand the purpose of the code is to reduce the energy needs of new construction/renovation, shifting the remaining energy burden to focus on electricity is putting too many eggs in one basket. The New England grid relies heavily on electricity production from natural gas for which the cost and reliability of fuel is uncertain.
- The town of Charlton and myself personally are bearing the burden of this reliance on Natural Gas. A new LNG facility is under construction in the town and due to state rules & regulations, residents had very little input or ability to make change requests to alleviate public safety concerns. I personally live within 200' of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline and in the summer, I mow the easement to allow for recreational use. It is a regular reminder that our town is doing our part to alleviate the energy needs of others in the Commonwealth, but also the inherent risk of living so close to a pipeline.
- Over the past 10 years, Charlton has experienced 3 multi-day electrical outage events in winter. While inconvenient, I was able to keep my home intact and family safe through the use of a wood stove, gas cooking and gas fireplace. Reliance on all electric appliances would have forced me to winterize and evacuate my home.

While I fully support stronger requirements of weatherization, residents of Charlton need to have the ability to choose the best energy source for their specific needs.

Chris Kowalski  
98 Oxford Rd.  
Charlton, MA 01507