

Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

From: Sue Swanson <sueswanson2003@gmail.com>
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To: STRETCHCODE (ENE)
Subject: BUILDING CODE COMMENTS

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Dear Commissioner Woodcock,

Thank-you for this opportunity to comment on the new proposed stretch energy code.

As a resident of Bedford, I have not been actively involved in advocating for the local option opt-in stretch energy code that has been the route taken by a number of towns. That said, I have nonetheless followed the progress of their requests and the subsequent actions by your Department and the Legislature.

As the state accelerates toward a clean energy transition, I have come to realize that many of the initiatives proposed do not meet the needs of lower-income residents. We must find ways to ensure that climate mitigation works for all residents of the Commonwealth. We cannot afford to further burden either residents who live in frontline and environmental justice communities, nor low-income and otherwise marginalized residents across the state.

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 code almost ensures that low-income residents will be forced to carry the monetary and health costs of fossil fuels well into the future, while the wealthy transition to cleaner, healthier alternatives.

We must ensure that low-income ratepayers are not burdened with rising costs of fossil fuel distribution during the state's transition to clean energy. Local and state policies must work in coordination, using a true net zero stretch energy code, to prevent this from happening.

"Green" housing is affordable and very competitive when implemented for new construction or major renovations. A truly net zero stretch energy code will support such construction, to the benefit of the economically vulnerable in our state as well as the climate.

I urge you and the DOER to prioritize vulnerable residents in our state's clean energy transition, and remove or severely limit fossil fuels for new construction and major renovations.

Thank-you for your attention!

Sincerely yours,

Sue Swanson
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