

Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

From: Ricki Pappo <ricki.pappo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 2:35 PM
To: STRETCHCODE (ENE)
Subject: Stretch Code Straw Proposal Comments

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March 18, 2022
Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114
Attention: Nina Mascarenhas

Re: **Stretch Code Straw Proposal Comments**

Dear Commissioner Woodcock, Director McCarey, Mssrs. Finlayson and Ormond, et al:

We are writing on behalf of Lexington Climate Action Network (LexCAN) and concerned citizens from Lexington to express our disappointment with the Straw Proposal for the Stretch Code Update and the New Specialized Stretch Code. We represent multiple volunteer organizations of Lexington residents who work together, and with other town organizations, to promote climate solutions, climate justice, and a sustainable future.

The new [IPCC report](#) is a call to action that we can not and must not ignore! Climate change is accelerating and we must put on the brakes in order to protect current and future generations. This may not be easy, but it must be done. **We CAN take significant steps now by applying current technology and electrifying our building sector.**

On Feb 8, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) released your [Straw Proposal for a new stretch code](#). **The New Specialized stretch code is the opportunity for Massachusetts to take the kind of bold action that is needed to confront the very real climate crisis that we face. Here is the problem.** The Specialized Opt-in code does **NOT** require electrification, as it allows a pathway for builders to continue to use fossil fuels. **This is unacceptable and threatens our future.** By failing to directly address the use of fossil fuels in new construction, the single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions from the built environment, the Straw Proposal has missed this opportunity, an opportunity that comes once in a decade, at the very most.

We request that the Specialized Opt-in code be a true net-zero code. This is what Lexington will bring to a future Town Meeting. We feel confident that Lexington will pass this code due to recent overwhelming supportive votes and support for electrification of our buildings. Lexington passed a Home Rule to be able to disallow fossil fuels in both new construction and major renovations (still in Legislature) and two other articles that support electrification. **Lexington is ready to go all electric. Lexington is not alone.** Other communities have demonstrated their readiness to adopt fossil fuel free new construction practices. Please help, not hinder, these communities to lead the Commonwealth to achieve its net zero emission goals by promulgating a meaningful opt-in stretch code, one that uses solely electric heating in new construction.

The Specialized stretch code is an opportunity for Massachusetts to take the kind of bold action that is needed to confront the very real climate crisis that we face. By failing to directly

address the use of fossil fuels in new construction, maximum reductions from the built environment sector, the single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions state-wide, will not be realized. **Please go back to the drawing board and release a Specialized Stretch Energy Code that eliminates the use of all fossil fuels in all new construction AND renovations.** In order to meet our climate goals we must begin a rapid decarbonization of our building sector.

Respectfully,
Ricki Pappo, Chair, Lexington Climate Action Network
Fran Ludwig, LexCAN Executive Board
Marcia Gens , LexCAN Executive Board
Lisbeth Bornhofft, LexCAN Executive Board, Sustainable Middlesex
Janice A Litwin, LexCAN Executive Board
Charles Moore, LexCAN Executive Board
Fran Ludwig, LexCAN Executive Board
Mary Yardley, LexCAN Executive Board
Mitch Tyson
Anne Engelhart
Bob Wallhagen
Jeanne Krieger, Town Meeting Member
Tina McBride, Town Meeting Member, LPS Green Teams
Robert D. Reasenber, PhD
Judith Glixon, LexCAN, Lexington Zero Waste Collaborative
Rosanne Essiambre, LexCAN
Debra C. Packard, LexCAN
Eileen Entin, LexCAN
Janet Lane
Mary Hutton, Mothers out Front, Lexington; LexCAN
Zaurie Zimmerman
Charles Moore, Lexington Climate Action Network
Lisa Sandeen, Mother out Front
Ken Karnofsky, LexCAN
Sallye Bleiberg, LexCAN
Hien Nguyen
Alan Wichlei
Mark Fortin
Christine Zende, 350 Mass - Lexington resident
Craig Zimmerman