



ADAPT. RESTORE. CONSERVE.

March 9, 2022

Patrick C. Woodcock
Commissioner, Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Subject: DOER Document "Building Energy Code Straw Proposal: Updated Stretch Code and Specialized Opt-In Code," dated February 2022

Dear Commissioner Woodcock:

We strongly urge you to change the Specialized Opt-in Code to allow municipalities like Cambridge to require fossil-fuel-free, all-electric new building construction. We need this option to allow cities and towns to demonstrate that requiring all-electric infrastructure in new buildings can be feasible, affordable, and support environmental justice (lower lifetime operating costs and healthier indoor air)! Allowing this leadership now would help spur wider adoption of all-electric buildings. Without this option, Cambridge's hands would be tied. Cambridge is implementing a Net Zero Action Plan that calls for citywide net zero carbon emissions by 2050 (the same as the state goal in the 2021 Climate Roadmap Bill.) With approximately 80% of our city's greenhouse gas emissions coming from buildings, we have no hope of getting there without electrifying new and renovated buildings.

Please help Cambridge and other municipalities achieve net zero by giving us the tools to require all-electric infrastructure in new buildings.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Strong Hibbard
President, Board of Directors
Green Cambridge

cc: Steven Nutter, Executive Director
Green Cambridge Board of Directors