



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Mayors' Commission on Climate Change Unwise in Threat to Eliminate Commercial and Residential Use of Natural Gas

Sacramento, CA – Residents and business owners in Sacramento and West Sacramento face losing the right to choose how they heat homes and businesses, cook meals, shower in warm water, do laundry and other activities they now depend on natural gas to do.

On June 29, the Mayors' (of Sacramento and West Sacramento) Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) will hold its final meeting regarding plans that include the cities' plan to mandate all new construction to be all-electric, eliminating fossil-fuel use in new buildings by 2023 and transition 25% of existing residential and small commercial buildings to all-electric power by 2030.

At a time when Californians regularly face power outages and rolling brownouts, residents are not able to depend on what has become an unstable statewide power grid as many electricity providers, including PGE that powers Sacramento, face lawsuits and bankruptcy.

Natural gas is important to the production of electricity. If the intent is to eliminate natural gas, total electrification will not do that. In Sacramento, 54% of the electricity is generated from burning natural gas. It is not proven that source-generated electricity emits less carbon than high-efficiency gas appliances used in homes. This mandate will increase overall carbon emissions to produce the electricity it requires.

Natural gas is almost always cheaper than electricity. Choosing all gas appliances can save up to 30 percent on utility bills for home and business owners. Converting a home to all-electric is pricey – first, by having to cap the gas line and then at least \$350 per electric line to convert the household.

These proposals come at a time when so many of the public's choices are being taken away due to the current pandemic. Their choice of what fuel they use to heat their

homes should not be targeted for serious restriction now, especially with the previously mentioned unstable electricity grid.

Consumers can visit <https://savemynaturalgas.org/> that provides ways to speak up and say “no” to the Commission’s proposals.

Save My Natural Gas is a coalition of concerned residents, small business owners across the Western States, and the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association (HPBA) – Pacific Affiliate. They are focused on raising awareness of the importance of energy choice and urging city officials to engage in meaningful community consultation on energy choices.

The Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association has for many years encouraged homeowners to use fuel efficient products, with manufacturers producing a myriad of products to fill this demand. Natural gas is an affordable option and should not be eliminated in favor of any other option.

“What makes the most sense for our planet is to live with a balanced choice of energy sources,” says Mario Allen, Board president of the Pacific affiliate of HPBA. “Consumers must be able to select the best power and fuel option from natural gas, electricity, solid fuel, propane and solar. There are many very efficient products for homeowners now.

“The public is urged to speak up now about how important having energy choices for their homes. If this MCCC mandate goes through, costs will indeed go up during a time of major recovery from our current health and economic crisis.”

The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue (HPBA) is the North American industry association for manufacturers, retailers, distributors, representatives, service firms and allied associates for all types of hearth, barbecue, patio appliances, and accessories. The association provides professional services and industry support in education, statistics, government relations, and consumer education.

Retailers belonging to the HPBA Pacific have special training and experience to provide expert advice on all fireplace, outdoor grill and fire ring needs using many types of fuel. To locate retailers, visit www.hpbapacific.org or call 626-237-1200.

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