

Molly Wingrove

From: John Mirsky <johnmirsky@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 11:58 PM
To: Rep. Roger Hauck (District 99)
Cc: Rep. Michele Hoyenga (District 102); Rep. Joseph Bellino, Jr. (District 17); Rep. Matt Hall (District 63); Rep. Mike Mueller (District 51); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 79); Rep. TC Clements (District 56); Rep. John N. Damoose (District 107); Rep. Pat Outman (District 70); Rep. Kevin Hertel (District 18); Rep. Jewell Jones (District 11); Rep. Tenisha Yancey (District 1); Rep. Alex Garza (District 12); Rep. Angela Witwer (District 71); Rep. Richard Steenland (District 22); Molly Wingrove; House Clerk
Subject: Opposition to HB 4575

Dear Regulatory Reform Chair Hauck,

I am opposed to the subject bill for the following reasons:

1. At present, municipalities cannot currently enact a ban on natural gas so it's my understanding that the bill makes no sense.
2. The burning of natural gas results in EPA criteria air pollutants (e.g. NOX). Thus using natural gas appliances in homes results in negative indoor air quality which, in turn, has a significant negative impact on human health, for example an increased incidence of asthma, especially in children.
3. The burning of natural gas also results in greenhouse gases emissions. The carbon footprint of buildings can be reduced - indeed eliminated - by electrified buildings because electricity can be supplied with renewable energy.
4. The current draft language could actually limit any entity's ability to adopt more aggressive building codes in the future; that could limit the potential for building electrification in significant and likely unintended ways.
5. Using natural gas appliances in homes is a safety risk (fires, explosions, burns, carbon monoxide poisoning / death).
6. Finally, I support local regulatory control because local municipalities know what is best for their residents and community.

I realize that there are currently some equity (increased cost) issues with building electrification. They need to be addressed - and are likely to be eliminated over time as the cost of generating renewable energy continues to drop. In any case, the state should not preemptively and permanently ban local municipalities from having the ability to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of our public. This is the fundamental purpose of government.

Thank-you for considering my input.

John Mirsky
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