



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Choice being threatened for commercial and residential use of natural gas

Sacramento, CA – There are cities planning mandates for all new construction to be all-electric, eliminating clean natural gas use in new buildings by 2023 and transitioning to 25% of existing residential and small commercial buildings to all-electric power by 2030.

It is of grave concern to the members of the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue industry that amid so many of the public's choices being taken away, what fuel they use to heat their homes is also targeted for serious restriction.

The industry has for many years encouraged homeowners to use fuel efficient products with manufacturers producing a myriad of appliances to fill this demand. Natural gas is an affordable zone heating 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 Jay Hanson, 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 based on where and how they live. There are many very efficient products for homeowners now.”

This restriction is misguided, very short-sighted, and will cost consumers millions of dollars over time. The public is urged to have a voice in how much they spend on running or fueling appliances for their homes. If this mandate goes through city by city, then countywide, costs will indeed go up during a time of major recovery from our current health and economic crisis.

Key points for resisting the natural gas ban in our homes and buildings:

1. All-electric homes depend on only one source of energy. We have learned that Energy Diversity is key to our safety and health in emergencies.
2. All-electric homes have lower values than homes with Energy Diversity.
3. All-electric homes are more costly to keep warm, heat your water, dry your clothes, cook your food, and may prevent you from enjoying a warm cozy fire.
4. Direct use of Natural Gas to heat your home is far more efficient (82%-95%) than a utility using natural gas to generate electricity (about 40%), cutting greenhouse gas emissions effectively by half or more.
5. Part of the proposed plan may include “Forced Electrification” of EXISTING HOMES that might entail changing out all gas appliances when you sell your home.
6. Banning natural gas needs to be put on HOLD until electric utilities can ensure safe, efficient operation and reliable energy supply during power outages and catastrophes. Anything less will be negligence.

Home and building owners are reminded that specialty hearth product retailers can show them the latest efficient hearth products and answer any safety or maintenance questions for all hearth types.

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 member services and industry support in education, statistics, government relations, marketing, and consumer education.

Retailers belonging to the HPBA Pacific region which includes California, Nevada and Hawaii have special training and experience to provide expert advice on all fireplace needs. To locate retailers, visit www.hpbapacific.org or call 626-237-1200. To learn more about the natural gas ban, visit www.savemynaturalgas.org.

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