



April 16, 2018

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The Honorable Chris R. Holden, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy  
State Capitol, Room 5132  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 3232 (Friedman) – OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Holden:

On behalf of Duarte Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our opposition to AB 3232 (Friedman), which sets statewide goals for “zero-emission” buildings by 2030—both new and existing construction.

Our organization is over 250 strong, diverse in both businesses, organizations and residents. Most of our businesses are small and we have almost 40 that are restaurants. They rely on having an establishment such as ours that can be able to examine various elements of rules, regulations, trends, and support that will affect them directly.

The bill is a thinly-veiled attempt to force everyone to use electricity for all end-uses, regardless of what people want or the increased cost to consumers. While there are claims that the bill is “fuel-neutral”, the proponents of the bill have made it abundantly clear that the purpose of this bill is to promote a transition from natural gas end-uses in buildings to electric heat pump technology. Additionally, state regulators, who will oversee creating and implementing this strategy have also made it known that their preference is to electrify all end-uses. Clearly, a specific technology and energy type will be given preference. However, the bill itself states that combustion in buildings accounts for just 10% of the state’s annual greenhouse gas emissions, far less than many other sectors. Why would the state create an expensive and unstudied mandate to chase such a small fraction of emissions?

This bill is unnecessary. Californians can already choose their preferred appliances—the reason natural gas is used in over 80% of homes and businesses is due to market forces. People choose natural gas because it is cheaper and more efficient, and we believe Californians should have the right to choose the energy and appliances they use in their homes and businesses. We believe there are better, more cost-effective ways to clean our air and protect the environment.

California is facing unprecedented affordability issues: the costs of housing, transportation, and energy are on the rise. Everyday Californians are finding it difficult to provide for their families and make ends meet. It is therefore

unreasonable to expect that everyone can switch out their appliances without facing financial hardship. Replacing appliances also may require an upgrade to both the electric panel and wiring, at great additional cost to the homeowner. Californians who rent can expect to have these costs potentially passed along to them. Once homes are all-electric, energy bills will increase significantly. Households that use all-electric appliances pay almost \$900 a year more than mixed-fuel homes.

In addition, an electrification mandate would eliminate customer choice and make the term “energy options” completely meaningless in California. This would move the state to an all-eggs-in-one-basket scenario, jeopardizing energy reliability. Should blackouts occur due to natural or man-made causes, California residents will be completely without energy for cooking or space and water heating. It hardly seems prudent for the state to choose to eliminate all but one type of energy.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose AB 3232 and request your “NO” vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shayla Zep".

CC: Members, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy  
Ms. Kellie Smith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy