

August 31, 2026

The Honorable Eric Burlison
Chairman

House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy,
and Regulatory Affairs
2157 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxwell Frost
Ranking Member

House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy,
and Regulatory Affairs
2106 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Burlison and Ranking Member Frost:

On behalf of millions of taxpayers and consumers, the Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs' upcoming hearing titled, "No Flame, More Pain: How State and Local Bans on Natural Gas Increase Costs." New York passed the "All-Electric Buildings Act" in 2023, which prohibited most new construction from relying on natural gas or other fossil fuels.¹ Further, as the consultancy Ankura notes, "Dozens of local governments in seven states, in addition to the District of Columbia, have imposed or passed ordinances for natural gas restrictions, with the majority in California."² These short-sighted policies have led to higher energy costs for families and businesses without helping the environment. TPA urges the subcommittee to learn the lessons of runaway regulation and avoid instituting onerous restrictions at the federal level.

Restrictions on natural gas are designed by policymakers to curb greenhouse gas emissions by forcing new construction to rely entirely on electric heating and appliances. However, these policies only succeed in inadvertently driving up monthly utility bills. In states like New York and California, retail electricity is significantly more expensive per unit of delivered energy than natural gas. According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), retail electricity rates are roughly four times higher than residential natural gas, and the gap is even higher in the Northeast.³ Even when accounting for high-efficiency electric heat pumps, the

¹ https://nyassembly.gov/all-electric-buildings/?sec=what_it_does.

² <https://ankura.com/insights/natural-gas-restrictions-in-the-u-s-examining-the-state-of-play-policy-objectives-legal-developments-and-antitrust-implications>.

³ <https://www.aga.org/research-policy/resource-library/eia-projects-rising-electricity-prices-widening-the-gap-with-natural-gas-to-4-0x-in-2027/>.

operational costs of heating a home with high-cost grid electricity during harsh winter months routinely outpace gas heating, placing a heavy financial burden on struggling families.

It's little surprise then, that more of these restrictions on natural gas would impose massive costs on households across the country. As the Institute for Energy Research noted in 2021, "The capital costs associated with eliminating natural gas use in buildings are staggering. One report [by T² and Associates] (using 2018 numbers) found that the total household investment needed to replace natural gas use with electricity in residential buildings would be \$1.6 trillion nationwide. Additionally, the cost of completing energy retrofits on every existing commercial building would cost about \$9 trillion. According to the report, electrifying the entire nation, with a goal of eliminating the direct consumption of fuel and reducing climate change emissions, would cost between \$18 trillion and \$29 trillion."⁴ Expanding these bans and mandates—or exporting them to the federal level—is unworkable and a recipe for disaster.

TPA urges lawmakers to study the unintended consequences of these heavy-handed policies and pursue an all-of-the-above energy policy. Thank you for your time and consideration of this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



David Williams
President

⁴ https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Natural-Gas-Ban-Report_Updated.pdf.