



The Honorable Robert E. Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Chairman Latta, Ranking Member Castor, Members of the Subcommittee:

Please find below responses to questions for the hearing record related to my testimony at the Subcommittee on Energy on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at the hearing entitled “Appliance and Building Policies: Restoring the American Dream of Home Ownership and Consumer Choice.”

The Honorable Robert Latta (R-OH)

1. The previous administration attempted to eliminate 50% to 96% of gas cooktops from the market.

a. While that was walked back, can you discuss other efforts to deter gas cooktop use, like inappropriate labeling requirements?

Attempts to deter gas cooktop use are broad and widespread, from gas fuel bans in states like New York, electric-only building codes, restrictions on new gas installations, efficiency standards for gas appliances proposing to eliminate popular product features, health and safety labeling initiatives, and even attempts by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to consider banning gas stoves.

Five states have seen bills introduced that would require warning labels for gas stoves. More than 100 communities and several states have enacted policies to prevent consumer access to natural gas service and gas appliances.

The Honorable Laurel Lee (R-FL)

1. In your written testimony, you mentioned that 27 states have codified a right to consumer energy choice, including my home state of Florida.

a. Can you describe how ensuring this right helps lower energy costs for consumers?

Access to natural gas is an advantage for customers who use it in their homes; a typical new household that uses natural gas for heating, cooking, and clothes drying saves an average of \$1,132 per year compared to the same home using electricity for those applications. The low cost of natural gas has saved families a total of \$125 billion over 10 years. Lower fuel prices and investments in energy efficiency continue to drive consumer savings.

Even as demand for natural gas has surged, increased production, energy efficiency gains and robust domestic storage have allowed the industry to keep pace, setting the stage for continued affordability and reliability for American consumers.

States that have proposed gas bans in recent years are now finding that removing access to natural gas will result in increased energy costs, as is the case in New York state, where even legislators who voted in favor of the law are requesting delayed implementation due to increased costs and concerns around electric grid reliability

See attachment.

b. In contrast to these 27 states, some like New York and California have advanced policies to promote net-zero building codes. How will these net-zero policies impact housing affordability?

The American Gas Association supports fuel-neutral, cost-effective building energy codes that achieve reasonable efficiency improvements without favoring one energy source over another. Unfortunately, recent building energy codes have misapplied the code process to advance prescriptive electrification, such as mandates for EV-charging infrastructure, electric-ready provisions, and an adoptable appendix for all-electric homes, without demonstrating efficiency or environmental benefits. These measures increase construction costs and reduce housing affordability.

A 2021 analysis by Home Innovation Research Labs evaluated the cost of electrification measures for new and existing single-family homes, comparing all-electric houses to those with natural gas equipment and appliances. The analysis showed that the added cost of an all-electric home compared to a baseline natural gas home ranged from \$4,000 to \$15,000 in representative U.S. cities. Recent cost changes could widen that delta, further burdening consumers.

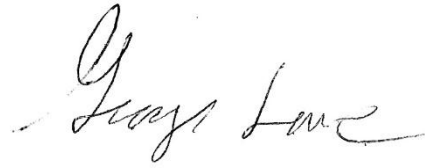
c. Why is it important to support legislation that would codify a federal right to consumer energy choice?

AGA believes that all consumers deserve to make choices when it comes to meeting their unique energy needs. Consumer energy choice preserves access to safe, clean, affordable energy resources including natural gas that offer a sustainable pathway to the shared goal of reducing emissions while maintaining the affordability, reliability and quality of life Americans are proud to enjoy. This is a right currently codified in 27 states. Fuel choice legislation preserves access to natural gas in homes and businesses in states that have enacted it across America.

Codifying fuel choice federally would further this effort and end a patchwork approach to fuel legislation limiting consumer choice and leading to confusion with a patchwork of laws, codes, and regulations attempting to limit access to natural gas. Today, natural gas meets more than one-third of our nation's energy needs. AGA members recognize natural gas is the most

reliable and affordable form of energy in the United States – it's our nation's strategic advantage.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Lowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a stylized "L".

George Lowe
Vice President
Governmental Affairs and Public Policy
American Gas Association



WILLIAM C. CONRAD, III
Assemblymember 140th District
Erie County, Niagara County

THE ASSEMBLY
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Tourism, Parks, Arts & Sports Development

November 3, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Office of the Governor
New York State Capital Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I write to you today in my capacity as a concerned representative of our constituents. While I share the long-term goal of decarbonizing our state, I believe the imminent requirement to mandate all-electric new buildings must be paused pending thorough reassessment of grid reliability, cost impacts, and risk mitigation. The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) has flagged serious concerns that warrant a more cautious approach.

Below, I outline the principal reasons for a temporary halt, based on NYISO's recent reports and analyses:

Key Risks and Findings from NYISO

1. Declining Reliability Margins and Narrowing Reserve Buffer

According to NYISO's Power Trends 2025, reliability margins are shrinking as fossil-fuel generation units retire faster than clean resources can be deployed. The report warns that as demand from electrification, large industrial loads (e.g. semiconductors, data centers) and heating / cooling grows, the grid may not maintain sufficient slack reserves to respond to contingencies.

2. Projected Reliability Shortfalls in New York City

In the 2024 Reliability Needs Assessment (RNA), NYISO identifies that New York City faces a reliability "need" of 17 MW in summer 2033, increasing to 97 MW in summer 2034, if existing generation retirement proceeds without adequate replacement. These shortfalls are worsened by planned deactivations of small NYPA gas plants, which will reduce capacity by ~517 MW.

3. Fuel Security & Winter Risks

As the building sector is electrified, winter demand will rise. NYISO now models gas availability constraints during cold weather, assuming that up to 6,400 MW of gas-only generators may be unavailable during winter peaks due to fuel delivery constraints. Natural gas is prioritized to serve residential heating and generators may face limited access to gas when it is most needed — precisely when electric heating loads are highest. This challenge is compounded if the system becomes "winter-peaking" due to electrified heating loads.

4. Transmission Delays & Dependence on Dispatchable Resources

The Comprehensive Reliability Plan warns that delays in transmission projects (e.g. Champlain Hudson Power Express) could exacerbate load-generation imbalances, especially in NYC.

NYISO makes clear that until zero-emission resources with dispatchable capacity are fully online, fossil-fired (or dual-fuel) generation will remain essential to maintain system reliability.

Why a Pause is Warranted

Given these risk factors, I respectfully propose that the state pause (or delay) enforcement of the all-electric building mandate to allow:

- Comprehensive stress testing of the grid under high-electrification scenarios, including extreme weather, outages, and transmission bottlenecks
- Cost / rate impact studies on consumers, developers, and municipalities
- Phase-in strategies and safety valves (e.g. dual-fuel allowances, backup systems, demand response, staged electrification)
- Acceleration of dispatchable clean energy projects, transmission, storage, and permitting reforms, before imposing blanket electrification requirements
- Public and stakeholder review to improve transparency and feasibility

A pause is not a rejection of decarbonization goals. It is a prudent measure to ensure we do not jeopardize system reliability, impose runaway costs, or force unintended consequences on citizens and businesses. As we know, New York State is already facing a housing crisis. These all-electric new building mandate timelines will disincentivize new housing projects and aggravate the housing crisis across the state, slowing much – needed housing production and driving up construction costs just as the state is striving to increase supply and improve affordability.

Given this evidence and present circumstances I hope you will consider taking any one or all of the following measures to secure our energy security.

1. Issue an executive order or directive to suspend enforcement of the new building electrification requirement (set to begin December 31, 2025) pending the results of a grid resilience and impact assessment.
2. Convene a task force (including NYISO, NYSEERDA, utilities, independent experts, consumer advocates, building industry) to:
 - Evaluate grid readiness under high electrification
 - Identify minimum safe thresholds for electrification
 - Recommend contingency measures (e.g. hybrid systems, dual-fuel backups)
 - Prepare transitional timelines and trigger thresholds
3. Direct NYSEERDA, PSC, and Department of State to publish public versions of modeling results, cost estimates, and reliability gap analyses before full implementation.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters. I remain committed to achieving New York's clean energy goals in a way that is responsible, reliable, and fair to all residents.

Respectfully,



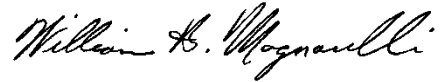
William Conrad III
140th AD



Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes
141st AD



Judy Griffin; 21st AD



William B. Magnarelli; 129th AD



Simcha Eichenstein; 48th AD



Paula Elaine Kay; 100th AD



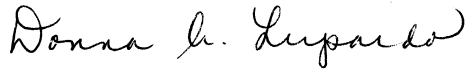
Sam Berger; 27th AD



Marianne Buttenschon 119th AD



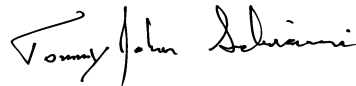
Carrie Woerner; 113th AD



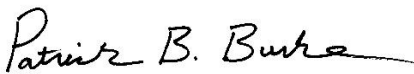
Donna Lupardo; 123rd AD



Rebecca Kassay; 4th AD



Tommy John Schiavoni; 1st AD



Patrick Burke; 142nd AD



Alicia Hyndman; 29th AD



Patrick Carroll; 96th AD



Steve Stern; 10th AD



Jen Lunsford; 135th AD



Angelo Santabarbara; 111th AD



John T. McDonald III; 141st AD