

BOSTON GLOBE: LETTERS

With new law, Mass. communities will be showing fossil fuels the door

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Baker is wise to be concerned about ban on gas in new buildings

Governor Charlie Baker was right to pause before signing a controversial measure in the recent climate change bill allowing 10 municipalities to ban the use of fossil fuels for new construction and substantial rehabs ([“Fossil fuel ban to be tested for buildings,”](#) Page A1, Aug. 15). While the new law contains important provisions to help the state meet its laudable carbon-reduction mandates, the ban removes the ability of builders and homeowners to choose advanced biomass-based fuels such as biodiesel, a proven drop-in fuel that when blended with petroleum-based heating oil can reduce carbon emissions by up to [74 percent](#) on average, according to Argonne National Laboratory.

The jury is still out on the impact full electrification would have on the cost of housing, electric rates, and the New England power grid, which today produces electricity with [a fuel mix](#) of about 60 percent natural gas and only about 5 percent renewables. It makes no sense to exclude biodiesel, a tested and recognized liquid fuel that delivers immediate carbon reductions. Other states, such as New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, have adopted mandates for biodiesel fuel use. Massachusetts should be doing the same.

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