

To the Arlington Select Board:

As the mother of two children and a teacher, I am deeply concerned about our climate crisis. I believe the actions we take today impact the climate my children and all children will inherit. For that reason, I am in support of Warrant Article 10, which proposes that the Town opt into the Specialized Stretch Energy Code promulgated by the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER) in December. The Specialized Code is an important first step toward the “true net zero code” that last year’s Town Meeting, upon the Select Board’s recommendation, urged DOER to adopt.

The new Stretch Code requires buildings that use fossil fuels to be fully electric-ready, which is important consumer protection. It also requires buildings to generate solar power where it makes sense. This is particularly important as urban rooftops are often an excellent location for solar panels. Solar panels on roofs do not disrupt wildlife or other ecosystems. In addition, the Stretch Code requires multifamily houses to use Passive House construction, which has multiple benefits for residents over the long run. It is slightly more expensive to build, but the costs are offset over the life of the building. That means it is important that builders be incentivized to use Passive House construction.

The Specialized Code will benefit both the climate and Arlington residents, and I urge you to recommend its adoption.

Sincerely,

Nili Pearlmutter  
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