

Anne Wright  
84 Milton Street  
Arlington 02474

March 13, 2023

To the Arlington Select Board:

I'm writing 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.

I'm a member of Mothers Out Front and worked with others to get the Warrant Article mandating all-electric buildings passed at 2022 Town Meeting. I realize that the Specialized Code does not go as far as mandating electrification, but it does powerfully incentivize it by requiring buildings that use fossil fuels to be fully electric-ready.

The Specialized Code also requires buildings using fossil fuels to provide onsite generation of solar power where feasible in order to mitigate the adverse climate effects of burning fossil fuels. In addition, large houses (over 4,000 conditioned square feet) that use fossil fuels would need to be zero energy.

Obviously, there is more work to be done before the Specialized Code becomes the true net zero code that Arlington has called for. But in general, I'm in support of every step we can take to move our town, our state, and our country to a decarbonized housing stock. For the benefit of all Arlingtonians, and the whole country which faces the existential threat of climate change, I urge you to endorse Warrant Article #10.

Thank you for your excellent service to the town.

Sincerely,

Anne Wright