



July 25, 2023

The Honorable Bill Essayli  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 4520  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0007

**RE: Assembly Bill 698 – Energy: gas stoves – Notice of Opposition (As Amended on March 9, 2023)**

Dear Assemblymember Essayli:

NATALIE ROGERS  
Mayor

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to express our respectful opposition to your Assembly Bill (AB) 698, which would prohibit state agencies and local governments from adopting or enforcing a rule, regulation, resolution, or ordinance that directly or indirectly results in prohibiting the use of gas stoves in residential and nonresidential buildings.

DIANNA MACDONALD  
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ  
VICTORIA FLEMING  
JEFF OKREPKIE  
CHRIS ROGERS  
MARK STAPP

This bill would remove much needed local control in the fight against climate change. Gas stoves not only contribute to climate change through their use of natural gas; they also emit harmful chemicals into the air which are confined in the home and therefore lead to asthma and other respiratory illnesses. This bill would remove the ability for the City to help fight climate change, as well as help protect the health of its residents. Not allowing local governments to ban gas stoves therefore poses a public health risk to residents across California and also removes the ability of local governments to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thus reduce the impact of global climate change.

A recent study in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* showed that natural gas is more toxic than previously thought, and that gas stoves also leak harmful pollutants<sup>1</sup>. The study estimated that 20% childhood asthma cases in California are due to the use of gas stoves. In 2022, the American Public Health Association noted that gas stoves are the source of air pollutants that present dangerous health impacts to children and other at-risk groups<sup>2</sup>. Another recent study showed that natural gas stove use is linked

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<sup>1</sup> Gruenwald, Talor, Brady A. Seals, Luke D. Knibbs, and H. Dean Hosgood, III. 2023. "Population Attributable Fraction of Gas Stoves and Childhood Asthma in the United States" *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 20, no. 1: 75. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20010075>

<sup>2</sup> American Public Health Association, 2022. "Gas Stove Emissions Are a Public Health Concern: Exposure to Indoor Nitrogen Dioxide Increases Risk of Illness in Children, Older Adults, and People with Underlying Health Conditions" [Gas Stove Emissions Are a Public Health Concern: Exposure to Indoor Nitrogen Dioxide Increases Risk of Illness in Children, Older Adults, and People with Underlying Health Conditions \(apha.org\)](https://www.apha.org/gas-stove-emissions-are-a-public-health-concern)



to alarming rates of childhood asthma. Richard Trumka, Jr., the commissioner of the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission, has called gas stoves a hidden hazard and that any option to replace them must be on the table. Future regulations are thus needed to curb this public health risk, and this bill would prohibit any future regulations at the local level.

On November 19, 2019, the City of Santa Rosa passed an ordinance titled "All-Electric Low Rise Residential Reach Code" that would require all new residential construction of 3-stories and below in the City to be all electric. Santa Rosa was one of the first cities in the country to pass an all-electric reach ordinance. As you may know, in addition to reducing fossil fuels, all-electric buildings can be safer and healthier to work and are cost effective, especially when designed at the new construction stage.

AB 698 would hamper the ability of local governments to ensure that they are considering the impending impacts of climate change and disasters on risk to residents when planning for housing in their communities.

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The bill would also enlarge an already existing public health risk to City residents. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose your AB 698. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Dane Hutchings with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers  
Mayor  
City of Santa Rosa