

April 3rd, 2023

Environment and Energy Committee Members:

Sen. Bob Smith

Sen. Linda Greenstein

Sen. Richard Codey

Sen. Edward Durr

Sen. Jean Stanfield



Re: SB.3672, Concerning building electrification and supplementing 1 P.L.2018, c.17

The Alliance for Green Heat (AGH), a non-profit based out of Takoma Park, MD focused on advocating for green heating strategies, urges you to support SB.3672, “Concerning building electrification and supplementing 1 P.L. 2018, c. 17,” with slight modification. The language banning unregulated fuels, such as wood for heating, is a policy misstep.

Heat pumps are a vital lower carbon form of heating as are some “unregulated fuels,” such as wood pellets, which would be covered by “other unregulated fuels,” (§1, subsection d., (1)). Wood stoves also play a highly beneficial role in the electrification movement because they are a preferred backup heat for many people, giving people the confidence to install heat pumps. In the state of New Jersey, 9,820 households use wood as a primary source of heat.<sup>1</sup> High efficiency wood stoves offer households a low-carbon fuel option when the electricity goes out. New Jersey is no stranger to electricity outages. For example, on December 22nd of 2022, over 6,000 New Jersey households lost electricity during a winter storm for multiple hours.<sup>2</sup> Two days later, on December 24th, over 9,000 residents were without power.<sup>3</sup> There is high confidence that extreme weather events will continue to increase in intensity and frequency due to climate change.<sup>4</sup> With this knowledge many wood stove users would prefer to keep their wood stove as a backup heating source. In this way, wood stoves act as a partner in the energy transition and are seen as a complementary technology in electrification policy.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2021. “B25040: House Heating Fuel.” *American Community Survey*. [https://data.census.gov/table?q=new+jersey&t=Heating+and+Air+Conditioning+\(HVAC\)&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B25040](https://data.census.gov/table?q=new+jersey&t=Heating+and+Air+Conditioning+(HVAC)&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B25040).

<sup>2</sup> Lewis, A. 2022. “More than 6,000 without power in Central Jersey as gusty winds bring Arctic temperatures.” *My Central Jersey*. <https://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/weather/2022/12/23/central-jersey-power-outage-affects-thousand-s-jcpl-arctic-temperatures-weather/69754078007/>.

<sup>3</sup> Rosenthal, N. 2022. “Over 9k NJ Homes Without Power Christmas Eve Morning: Officials.” *Patch*. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/across-nj/over-9k-nj-homes-without-power-christmas-eve-morning-officials>.

<sup>4</sup> Center for Climate Energy and Solutions. N.d. “Extreme Weather and Climate Change.” <https://www.c2es.org/content/extreme-weather-and-climate-change/>.

Again, we would like to commend the work that New Jersey is attempting to carry out in order to promote the energy transition through SB.3672. But we urge that the Senate Committee on Environment and Energy take into account that wood heating as a technology has the potential to quell concerns over electrical outages for New Jerseyans as the state moves towards a more sustainable and cleaner residential energy profile. We hope you support SB.3672, and urge that you consider amending language so that you don't inadvertently discourage wood and pellet stove usage in the state.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.A.", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Ackerly  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darian Dyer" in a cursive style.

Darian Dyer  
Policy Analyst