

SUBJECT: Prohibiting regulations restricting use of natural gas or propane appliances

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — Paddie, Hernandez, Deshotel, Harless, Hunter, P. King, Lucio, Metcalf, Raymond, Shaheen, Slawson, Smithee

1 nay — Howard

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Amy DeWeese, Atmos Energy Corp; Jason Ryan, CenterPoint Energy; Michael Lozano, Permian Basin Petroleum Association; David Cagnolatti, Phillips 66; Kyle Jackson, Texas Apartment Association; J.D. Hale, Texas Association of Builders; Ryan Paylor, Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO); William Van hoy, Texas Propane Gas Association; Shana Joyce, TXOGA; Detrese Harkey)

Against — Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jason Sabo, Environment Texas)

DIGEST: CSHB 1501 would prohibit a governmental entity from adopting or enforcing a rule, charter provision, ordinance, order, or other regulation that prohibited or restricted the use of an appliance or other system or component fueled by natural gas or propane in the construction, renovation, maintenance, or alteration of a residential or commercial building.

A regulation adopted by a governmental entity that conflicted with this bill would be void.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSHB 1501 would protect natural gas and propane appliances in new construction, renovations, and existing buildings for residential and commercial property owners. A growing number of cities have begun to restrict or prohibit natural gas or propane appliances in new buildings and

construction, removing energy options that may be more reliable, economical, and environmentally friendly than options like all-electric appliances. CSHB 1501 would preempt these misguided local regulations to protect customer choice in home or business appliances.

**CRITICS  
SAY:**

CSHB 1501 could have a chilling effect on programs that promote energy efficiency if they were interpreted as restricting certain appliances or systems. It could limit the authority of political subdivisions to educate consumers about cleaner energy choices or to promote electrification out of concern for the potential effects of climate change.