

Dear Brett Lenart,

My name is Andrew Campbell, and alongside my wife Cindy Lee whom I met in undergrad at the University of Michigan, we have been proud Ann Arbor residents since 2010. We decided to settle in Ann Arbor due to my wife pursuing a career in medicine and I found an engineering job in town. We love Michigan and Ann Arbor in particular, however there have been a few recent developments that we find concerning, both related to the energy reliability of our city.

Both the initiative for Ann Arbor to self-generate its own electricity from solar, and more recently the proposed initiative to ban natural gas, have raised alarm for us. Having lived in Michigan for my entire life, I am accustomed to frigid winters. In the past few years, we have been thankful to have natural gas heating in our home to ensure hot water and a means to cook when power has run out. A ban on natural gas would have removed an option we had to sustain ourselves for the time necessary for power to come back online, and likely would have greatly increased the personal cost to us. Even though the ban is aimed at new construction (for now), we will be planning to build a new home in the next few years when we start growing our family. While a gas connection is not our most important criteria decision-making, it ranks highly on our list of considerations – especially given our shared love of traditional Chinese cooking, which is near impossible with electric or induction stoves.

A gas ban would necessitate home heating via electricity. As an engineer, I know first-hand the inefficiency of this process relative to natural gas combustion, which is why a shift to community solar in Ann Arbor is doubly worrisome. This will raise energy costs for all homeowners and renters during a time of historical inflation. Although my wife and I can afford this cost, there remain a large portion of less fortunate and lower-income folks in our community that will struggle. Ann Arbor already has a reputation as an expensive place to live in Michigan; this proposal will further drive division and inequality for residents.

I, like many of my fellow Ann Arbor residents, am in favor of reduced carbon emissions. However, this should *not* come at the expense of personal choice and freedom. I shop sustainably and reduce waste where I can. I do my part as best I can and want to retain the autonomy to make my own decisions regarding my own home. I believe that this is the best path for Ann Arbor and its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mr. Andrew Campbell and Dr. Cindy Lee
1634 Weatherstone Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108