



Northeast Hearth, Patio, and Barbecue Association

PO Box 28, Sudbury, MA 01776 . 978-440-0344 . nehpba.org

Meeting at XXX location in (State)

- Karen Arpino – NEHPBA Executive Director 978-440-0344
- Joel Etter – NEHPBA Government Affairs Chairman 508-272-8418
- Owner name– Business name (xxx) xxx-xxxx

As a resident and business owner in XX we are all in this together, we all have families and share a strong concern for the environment. As a member of the Northeast Hearth Patio and Barbecue Association (NEHPBA) we work to be part of the solution. Everyone wants a cleaner, more sustainable environment. We also must consider the current technology and human safety. Consumers need to have options as we transition to the energy of the future.

- The hearth and Fireplace industry in the United States was estimated to be \$7,67B in 2022 and projected to grow to \$11,69B by 2030.
- This includes the sale of:
 - a. Wood-burning, gas, and electric fireplaces
 - b. Gas, wood and pellet stoves and inserts
 - c. Other related products – glass fireplace doors, gas logs, etc.
- The industry employs approximately 29,000 people and supports an additional 46,000 jobs in related industries (manufacturing, transportation, and retail)
- There are approximately 3000 hearth dealers across the US, employing on average 9 employees each.
- Our Industry provides families with alternative sources of heat, which can be crucial for the extreme cold in New England and New York. With an aging and unreliable electric grid, power outages in the winter can become a life or death proposition to those with only a single source of heat (think about Texas in 2021).
- There are over 300 hearth dealers in New England, with over 60 in xx alone, employing over 500 employees and generating over \$60M in annual sales for the local economy.
- According to the State Department of Energy Resources own data, reliance on grid-only electric for heating will also increase heating costs by as much as 49% for many homeowners in New England (natural gas versus air source heat pump), effectively imposing a regressive tax on those who can least afford it.



Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association Affiliate



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Source: DOER Analysis

- **Most importantly, the GRID is fragile and not ready for “electrification”⁴:**
 - a. GRID relies on approximately 650,000 transformers, most of which are 30-40 years old, far beyond the 25 year life expectancy
 - b. 80% are built overseas
 - c. Supply chain issues currently have deliveries backup up over 18 months
 - d. GRID is vulnerable to severe weather, vandalism, and old equipment
- New England homeowners want alternative heat sources⁵
 - a. 91% of New England homeowners have an alternative heat source
- **NEHPBA members are ready to help shape a RATIONAL path to a greener future, and provide a wide array of products for the short term (gas) as well as long term (bio-fuel) green economy.**

1. National HBPA study, 2022
2. New England HPBA Association data
3. Massachusetts Department of Energy Resource Study, 2022
4. Niskanen Center, “How to Fix the Transformer Shortage”, 2023
5. New England HPBA Association data



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