Dear Members of Congress:

We write to request congressional action to address the health risks and dangers of gas stoves used in the home. As organizations, individual doctors and nurses, public health professionals, and consumer protection advocates dedicated to promoting public health, we are concerned about the negative health impacts resulting from the routine use of gas stoves in more than a third of homes across America.

More than thirty years ago, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) asked the EPA if it should be concerned about the impact of an invisible toxic gas—nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emitted from gas stoves. The EPA responded that the pollutant could have harmful health effects, and CPSC should investigate the concentrations of NO₂ occurring in America’s kitchens. Since that time, the EPA has continued to study the impacts of NO₂. Most recently, in 2016 the EPA stated that short-term exposure to NO₂ has a causal relationship with asthma attacks, particularly in children, and likely leads to the development of asthma. Yet neither agency has acted to regulate gas stove pollution, and the appliance remains common in more than 40 million homes throughout America. The US’s inaction on developing health-protective standards for NO₂ based on the latest evidence is in contrast to other countries, such as Canada, and the World Health Organization (WHO). Canada recently revised down its indoor NO₂ guideline. Additionally, the WHO recently revised NO₂ guidelines down by a staggering factor of four. The WHO guidelines are applicable to indoor and outdoor NO₂ and find that health impacts can occur at very low levels of exposure.

Gas stove pollution does not affect everyone equally. Populations most at risk include children, people with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, and older adults. In fact, children living in a home with a gas stove have a 42% increased risk of asthma and a 24% increased risk of being diagnosed with asthma by a doctor. Gas stoves also pose a health equity issue because people of color and lower-income households are disproportionately burdened by air pollutant exposure inside their homes, influenced by smaller unit size, more residents per home, inadequate ventilation, and improper use of a stove or oven for supplemental heat. These factors—compounded by disparities in outdoor air pollution and overall asthma burden—put our most vulnerable community members at high risk of negative health outcomes related to gas stove pollution.

In addition to the health risks, the extraction and combustion of methane gas used to power gas stoves contributes to the climate crisis, which in turn endangers public health even further. The changing climate will result in increases in average temperature, changes in precipitation patterns leading to flooding events and drought, and more frequent and intense hurricanes, wildfires, and poor air quality days. We can already see evidence of these changes today, as well as the resulting increased incidence of vector-borne disease and food- and water-related illness, impacts to mental health status, and increased risk of injury, disease, and death from these extremes.
The evidence is clear and mounting: gas stoves are hazardous to health and bad for our climate. As advocates and experts in the health field, we are calling for congressional action to bring to light the extent of the problem and to explore regulatory actions necessary to protect the public.

Sincerely,

Organizations

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Allergy & Asthma Network
Arizona Climate Action Coalition
Arizona Interfaith Power & Light
Arizona PIRG
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
AZ Public Health Association
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community
Building Decarbonization Coalition
CALPIRG
Climate Code Blue
Climate Psychiatry Alliance
Consumer Federation of America
COPiRG
Elders Climate Action
Elevate
Florida Clinicians for Climate Action
Forward Dining Solutions LLC
George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication
Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility
GreenHome Institute
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Illinois PIRG
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
New Buildings Institute
MarylandPIRG
MASSPIRG
MI Air MI Health
Mi Familia Vota
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition
Mothers Out Front
NCPIRG
Nevada Conservation League
OSPIRG
PennPIRG
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Physicians for Social Responsibility Arizona
Physicians for Social Responsibility Greater Boston
Physicians for Social Responsibility New York
Physicians for Social Responsibility Oregon
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Physicians for Social Responsibility San Francisco Bay
Physicians for Social Responsibility Texas
Physicians for Social Responsibility Washington
Public Citizen
Respiratory Health Association
Rewiring America
RMI
Save Porter Ranch
Sierra Club
U.S. PIRG
WashPIRG
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action

Individuals

**Catherine Toms**
*Medical Doctor, Florida Clinicians for Climate Action Steering Committee Member*

**Judith Amanda Millstein**
*Medical Doctor*

**Carol Lindsey**
*Nurse Practitioner*

**Zachary Williams**
*Health Educator, Physicians for Social Responsibility*

**Kathleen Nolan**
*Medical Doctor, MSL, Physician and Bioethicist*

**Eve Shapiro**
*Medical Doctor, MPH*

**Linda Peng**
*Medical Doctor, Internal Medicine Physician*

**Eric Sullivan**
*Medical Doctor*

**Joseph Blanda**
*Medical Doctor*

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Associate Professor, Stanford University School of Medicine

Anna Brandes  
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Meg Whitman  
Medical Doctor

Alan S. Peterson  
Medical Doctor

Andrea Kline-Tilford  
President, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Mark Vossler  
Medical Doctor

Randa Bazzi  
Veterinarian

Tomas Smith  
Climate and Health Ambassador, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Cheron McNabb  
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Knox J. Kelly
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Karen Peterson
*Community Climate Educator, ClimateTuscon*

Alyssa Tracy
*Climate Change and Health Advocacy Ambassador, Physicians for Social Responsibility*

Brenda Nuyen
*Medical Doctor*

Lisa Patel
*Medical Doctor, Stanford School of Medicine*

Zachary Meyer
*Local Climate Action Leader, Menlo Spark*

Leane Eberhart
*Architect*

Gary Latshaw
*Staff Scientist, Secure the Future 2100, Fossil Free Silicon Valley*

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