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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISORS CALL ON STATE TO REJECT BILL THAT WOULD UNDERMINE BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION EFFORTS

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to pass a resolution authored by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman opposing State Senate Bill 1393 (Archuleta) that would impede building electrification efforts necessary to combat climate change

SAN FRANCISCO — Today the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution authored by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman opposing a State bill that would make it harder for cities to adopt new building electrification requirements that will be critical to meeting carbon neutrality goals. State Senate Bill 1393 (Archuleta) would impose a host of burdensome new requirements that local jurisdictions would have to meet prior to requiring the replacement of fossil-fuel burning appliances with electric appliances when a building is renovated.

“San Francisco has made strides toward building electrification in recent years, and we have a lot more of that work to do if we’re going to stem the climate crisis,” said Supervisor Mandelman, who passed legislation in 2020 that requires all new buildings in San Francisco to be all-electric.

“California should be encouraging, not discouraging, bold building decarbonization efforts at the local level, in San Francisco and statewide. This bill does the exact opposite.”

Building operations are the second leading source of greenhouse gases in San Francisco, accounting for 41 percent of all emissions. The overwhelming majority of these emissions, 87 percent, are from the use of natural gas appliances like water boilers, furnaces, wall heaters and stoves.

Since 2020, San Francisco has adopted legislation prohibiting natural gas fixtures in new private and municipal buildings and allocated funds to establish grant and technical assistance programs for homeowners and businesses to shift to electric appliances. San Francisco’s 2021 Climate Action Plan specifically calls for retrofitting existing buildings to replace gas appliances with electric ones by 2040 as a key way of reducing building sector emissions. Under SB 1393, future legislation to achieve that goal would be subject to additional review, and could even be blocked by the State.

SB 1393 would mandate that local governments submit any ordinance requiring the installation of electric appliances to the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission for review within 60 days of passage. The Commission would then determine whether the ordinance considered a set of published guidance and could reject the ordinance or force local governments to

make certain amendments. This onerous new process would at minimum delay building electrification legislation and could even freeze efforts altogether that do not meet the Commission's standards.

"The state should be making it easier for local governments to get polluting gas out of homes, not harder," said Brandon Dawson, Director of Sierra Club California. "SB 1393 would be disastrous for local efforts to adopt requirements that dangerous, polluting, fossil-fueled appliances be replaced with zero-emission, electric appliances in buildings. Sierra Club California greatly appreciates the SF Board of Supervisors resolution and urge other cities to adopt the same."

"All levels of government have a role to play in pushing back against climate change, and the state should be supporting cities' efforts to push us forward," said Neha Bazaj with Emerald Cities Collaborative.

SB 1393 has attracted broad opposition from environmental and local government advocacy organizations, including Sierra Club California, Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice, California State Association of Counties, and League of California Cities, as well as the City of Los Angeles.

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduced the opposing resolution on May 3, joined by Supervisors Dean Preston, Ahsha Safai, Hillary Ronen and Gordon Mar, and the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt it on May 10. SB 1393 was heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 9, where it was placed on the suspense file and will be considered for reference to the Senate floor by no later than May 20.

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