[Opposing California State Senate Bill No. 1393 (Archuleta) - Local Requirements for Electric Appliances]

Resolution opposing California State Senate Bill No. 1393, introduced by Senator Bob Archuleta, that would impose new local requirements on jurisdictions when adopting an ordinance requiring the replacement of fossil fuel-burning appliances with electric appliances upon the alteration or retrofit of a residential or non-residential building.

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s 2021 Climate Action Plan establishes a goal of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, and specifically for all large commercial buildings to be zero emission by 2035, and for all buildings to be zero emission by 2040; and

WHEREAS, Building operations are the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in San Francisco, accounting for 41 percent of total emissions according to the 2019 GHG Inventory; and

WHEREAS, The overwhelming majority (87 percent) of greenhouse gas emissions attributed to the building operations sector are from natural gas burned to operate heating systems, boilers, water heaters, clothes dryers and cooking appliances; and

WHEREAS, Natural gas plumbing in buildings poses fire, explosion and public safety risks, with a natural gas or oil pipeline catching fire every four days, resulting in an injury every five days, exploding every 11 days and leading to a fatality every 26 days, on average, in the United States, according to a 2018 report; and

WHEREAS, Natural gas combustion is a major source of indoor air pollution, with studies having shown that children living in homes with natural gas stoves have a 42 percent increased risk of experiencing asthma symptoms and these impacts may be exacerbated in a compact city such as San Francisco where low-income households are more likely to have more people living in smaller spaces with less ventilation; and
WHEREAS, San Francisco has adopted several ordinances in recent years to advance building electrification, including Ordinance No. 237-20 mandating new construction be all-electric and Ordinance No. 8-20 requiring new construction and major renovations of municipal buildings to be all-electric; and

WHEREAS, Existing state law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to gather or develop, and publish, guidance and best practices to help building owners, the construction industry and local governments overcome barriers to electrification of buildings and installation of electric vehicle charging equipment; and

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill No. 1393 (SB 1393) would require a city, including a charter city, or county, when adopting an ordinance requiring the replacement of a fossil fuel-fired appliance with an electric appliance upon the alteration or retrofit of a residential or nonresidential building, to consider the guidance published by the commission; and

WHEREAS, The bill would require a local government, within 60 days of adopting that ordinance, to submit to the Commission a copy of the ordinance, and other specified information and would require the Commission to determine whether the local government considered the Commission’s published guidance in the adoption of the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, If the Commission determines that the local government had not considered the guidance, the bill would require the local government to consider the guidance, make any modification of the ordinance deemed necessary by the local government, and resubmit the ordinance and other information to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, The bill would inhibit the state’s progress on building decarbonization by putting undue and burdensome standards on cities, including San Francisco, seeking to adopt requirements to replace dangerous and polluting fossil-fueled appliances with zero-emission, electric appliances; and
WHEREAS, The California Energy Commission already has authority to review and approve local adoption of energy standards; and

WHEREAS, SB 1393 would require a host of additional findings that undermine local control and place an undue burden on local jurisdictions exercising their prerogative to safeguard their communities from the harms of fossil fuels, including air pollution and wildfires and other extreme weather events caused by climate change that threaten their lives, properties and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, Local governments should be encouraged rather than discouraged to adopt strong building decarbonization policies, including requirements to install electric appliances, to better protect the health and safety of their communities and address the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, SB 1393 is opposed by the California State Association of Counties, Earthjustice, League of California Cities, Natural Resources Defense Council, Rocky Mountain Institute, the Sierra Club, and the City of Los Angeles; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby opposes passage of Senate Bill No. 1393; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to San Francisco’s State legislative delegation, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, Governor Gavin Newsom, and to the City Lobbyist upon passage.
File Number: 220519          Date Passed: May 10, 2022

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May 10, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/10/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board