

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL
AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

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**Retaining Local Authority to Protect Public Health and Combat the Climate Crisis
by Opposing Senate Bill 1393**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) had demonstrated leadership in addressing the disproportionate impacts of air pollution and climate change on low-income communities and, especially, communities of color. In 2019, the Board has adopted the OurCounty Sustainability Plan which is the nation’s most ambitious such plan and which places equity at the center of its strategies. The Board has also adopted motions to phase out oil extraction in our communities, to seek the closure of the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Field, to support communities impacted by toxic emissions from the Exide Battery Recycling Plant, and directing the development of building codes to eliminate the use of fossil fuels in new residential and commercial buildings. The Board has also affirmatively stated that sustainability, environmental justice, and climate health are key priorities for the County.

To act on the OurCounty Sustainability Plan and related Board motions, the

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SOLIS	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
MITCHELL	_____

County relies on its local authority to protect public health and the environment. This local authority is critical to ensuring the County continues to lead on issues of importance to the Board in the absence of state and federal action. Unfortunately, polluting industries have long sought and are continuing to seek state legislation to limit the ability of local governments to act when they are unable to stop such action at the local level. Recent state legislation, Senate Bill (SB) 1393 (Archuleta) does just that.

SB 1393 would impose additional state barriers and requirements on local governments that are acting to reduce the emission of harmful air pollution caused by the use of fossil fuels in new buildings or existing buildings when altered or retrofitted even though residential and commercial buildings are among the most significant sources of both local air pollution and greenhouse gases. The South Coast Air Quality Management District also reports that commercial cooking and residential natural gas combustion are a larger source of fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) in the region than all cars and trucks combined. Additionally, studies have shown that children in homes that use natural gas have a 42% higher risk of experiencing asthma symptoms and are 24% more likely to be diagnosed with lifetime asthma. This makes it clear that the County – and all local governments – must retain the ability to adopt building codes and other requirements without hinderance from the state.

The obstacles that SB 1393 would create include establishing a new and separate state review process for codes that seek to require electric appliances and equipment in place of those powered by fossil fuels. Not only does this potentially limit the County's authority, but it would impose additional costs on the County. For these reasons, the County should oppose this bill.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Los Angeles County's Sacramento Advocates to oppose SB 1393.

S:SF: Retaining Local Authority to Protect Public Health and Combat the Climate Crisis by Opposing Senate Bill 1393