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All-Electric Buildings Are the Future

Tesla, one of California's greatest homegrown success stories, has demonstrated that it is possible to take cars off of fossil fuels by using electricity. If full electrification can be achieved in a car, which has to cover large distances at high rates of speed while also providing a safe, comfortable, conditioned interior for passengers, why can't it be achieved in every building?

Electrifying California's buildings will protect the health of children and families by reducing indoor air pollution from furnaces and water heaters. It will make maintenance safer and easier, at the scale of both individual building systems and especially regional distribution networks. And, by linking building energy use to an evolving electricity grid that is increasingly powered by renewable sources, it will give our state the chance to meet the aggressive carbon reduction goals that are needed to prevent unmanageable changes in our climate. As an architect who is committed to de-carbonizing the built environment in this state, I believe that building electrification is a crucial opportunity to spark innovation and improve public health and the environment, and I believe California should lead the country in seizing it.