Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to urge you to reject any actions that increase energy prices, increase our reliability on imported resources and eliminate local living wage jobs. The City of Los Angeles continues to be the epicenter of our nation's affordability and homelessness crises. The cost of everyday necessities like housing, child care and transportation are crushing working families. As it stands, California has the highest-in-the-nation gas prices at nearly $5 per gallon. Rather than tackle these issues head on, this government body pursues costly proposals which will trickle down to the consumers and increase our reliance on imported resources that do not stimulate our local economy. Additionally, the last thing this body should consider is creating setback policies that will kill thousands of high-skilled labor jobs that pay a living wage and support thousands of families in Los Angeles. It is beyond concerning that our city leaders would decimate an integral part of our local energy resources leading to more foreign oil imports and even higher gas prices. California currently imports more than 70% of the oil it needs. Not only do these imports deprive us of the local economic benefits generated by ensuring we utilize nearby energy sources, but they ultimately add to our deteriorating air quality. As noted by the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board recently, "The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are the single latest source of pollution in the nation's smoggiest area. The communities around the ports have the highest cancer risk from air pollution in the region…And air quality has been getting worse, not better, in recent years." Banning production statewide would translate into an additional 160 million barrels of oil imports to California annually. At minimum, that would require an additional 80 oil tankers to unnecessarily traverse the planet and idle in Southern California ports. In addition to the environmental impacts, an analysis released by the State Building & Construction Trades Council of California earlier this year found gas prices would increase a minimum of $1.70 per gallon under a statewide shutdown. Gas prices could soar to $10 or more per gallon if foreign supply challenges emerge after shutdown policies are implemented. I recognize that California is transitioning to a cleaner energy economy, but the City cannot allow energy policies to jump ahead of its energy reality and consumption. California still demands massive amounts of oil to fuel transportation, provide reliable electricity to the grid, grow and transport food, power businesses that provide jobs, and produce thousands of consumer products that make our lives possible. To jump ahead of reality means eliminating thousands of high-skilled labor jobs, negating the environmental impact of import logistics, all while everyday Angelenos, still recovering from the economic devastation caused by the pandemic, bare the burden of an inevitable increase in costs.