

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Isabel Friedman

**Date Submitted:** 09/29/2025 08:08 PM

**Council File No:** 25-1036

**Comments for Public Posting:** October 1, 2025 Housing and Homelessness Committee City of Los Angeles John Ferrano Council Chamber Room 340, City Hall 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 Subject: Support for the Maximum Indoor Temperature Motion, Council File No. 25-1036 On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), I write in support of motion 25-1036 regarding a maximum indoor temperature threshold for rental housing units in the City of Los Angeles. NRDC is a national, non-profit legal organization that has been active on a wide range of environmental health, natural resource protection around the world and here in the City of Los Angeles. We have been engaged on many aspects of the climate crisis for years and have been especially concerned about the impacts of extreme heat on the health of the most vulnerable city residents. As has been well established, extreme heat is the deadliest climate-related disaster, killing more Americans than all other natural disasters combined. Since indoor temperatures fluctuate far less than outdoor temperatures, during a heat wave, residents without air conditioning are more likely to be exposed to unsafe temperatures and humidity for long periods of time. At-home cooling is a necessary part of a comprehensive extreme heat strategy. Our current paradigm of cooling-as-a-luxury is inhumane, dangerous, and inequitable. A report from Strategic Actions for a Just Economy details the significant physical and mental impacts of extreme heat to tenants, including headaches, dizziness, asthma attacks, nosebleeds, anxiety, and heat rashes. Numerous analyses demonstrate that the greatest risk factor in heat-related fatalities is the lack of access to air conditioning. In fact, in Los Angeles, the average extreme heat day leads to upwards of 1,500 excess heat-related emergency room visits - mostly in low-income areas where residents are more likely to be renters. The good news is that heat mortality is preventable. Motion 25-1036 closes a policy gap we can no longer ignore. We already require all housing to provide heating. Now that we are experiencing sustained and extreme heat, everyone must have a right to cooling. We commend the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for paving the way by adopting their Safe Indoor Temperature ordinance, and urge the City of Los Angeles to help standardize these important protections across the region. We look forward to

working with the members of this committee and other Councilmembers to ensure tenants are protected from extreme heat. Thank you, Isabel Friedman Senior Advocacy Associate, Environmental Health Natural Resources Defense Council Esther Portillo Director, Western Environmental Health, Environmental Health Natural Resources Defense Council



October 1, 2025

Housing and Homelessness Committee  
City of Los Angeles  
John Ferrano Council Chamber  
Room 340, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Support for the Maximum Indoor Temperature Motion, Council File No. 25-1036

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), I write in support of motion 25-1036 regarding a maximum indoor temperature threshold for rental housing units in the City of Los Angeles. NRDC is a national, non-profit legal organization that has been active on a wide range of environmental health, natural resource protection around the world and here in the City of Los Angeles. We have been engaged on many aspects of the climate crisis for years and have been especially concerned about the impacts of extreme heat on the health of the most vulnerable city residents.

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At-home cooling is a necessary part of a comprehensive extreme heat strategy. Our current paradigm of cooling-as-a-luxury is inhumane, dangerous, and inequitable. A [report](#) from Strategic Actions for a Just Economy details the significant physical and mental impacts of extreme heat to tenants, including headaches, dizziness, asthma attacks, nosebleeds, anxiety, and heat rashes. Numerous analyses demonstrate that the [greatest](#) risk factor in heat-related fatalities is the lack of access to air conditioning. In fact, in Los Angeles, the average extreme heat day leads to [upwards of 1,500](#) excess heat-related emergency room visits - mostly in low-income areas where residents are more likely to be renters.

The good news is that heat mortality is preventable. Motion 25-1036 closes a policy gap we can no longer ignore. We already require all housing to provide heating. Now that we are experiencing sustained and extreme heat, everyone must have a right to cooling.

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Thank you,

Isabel Friedman  
Senior Advocacy Associate, Environmental Health  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Esther Portillo  
Director, Western Environmental Health, Environmental Health  
Natural Resources Defense Council