Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/30/2025 09:17 AM

Council File No: 25-1036

Comments for Public Posting: See attached letter from tenant, labor, environmental justice and

climate advocates writing to express strong support for the

Maximum Indoor Temperature motion.















September 30, 2025

Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

We are a coalition of tenant, labor, environmental justice and climate advocates writing to express strong support for the Maximum Indoor Temperature motion. We urge you to support this motion to prevent heat-related illness and death and transform our housing stock to be resilient in the face of a changing climate.

Extreme heat kills more people annually in the United States than any other natural disaster, with most fatalities occurring indoors due to the absence of effective cooling. On an average extreme heat day in Los Angeles County, hospitals see over 1,500 excess emergency room visits. Our most vulnerable neighbors—seniors, children, people with existing health conditions and residents of low-income, environmentally burdened communities—are particularly at risk. And as our planet warms, heat waves are only becoming more frequent, prolonged and fatal.

The findings in Strategic Actions for a Just Economy's (SAJE) recent report <u>A Renters' Right to Cooling</u> make clear that Los Angeles' tenants cannot wait any longer for protection from extreme heat conditions. During focus groups conducted for the report, tenants described experiencing serious physical and mental health impacts due to heat, including asthma attacks, headaches, dizziness, heat rashes, and insomnia. Many are forced to utilize ineffective or costly cooling solutions—such as wearing wet clothes, running fans, or leaving home entirely—because their landlords refuse to install air conditioning or actively prohibit them from installing it.

Extreme heat constitutes a public health crisis. The City of Los Angeles must treat it as such, rather than waiting for an event like the 1995 Chicago heat wave—which claimed the lives of 739 people largely due to a lack of access to indoor cooling—to take action. 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.

Sincerely,

Catherine Baltazar Associate Director of Advocacy and Organizing Climate Resolve

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

Shane Henson Public Policy Advocate Inner City Law Center

Grace Hut Assistant Director of Policy and Advocacy Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Fernando Ochoa Political Director Sheet Metal Workers (SMART) Local 105

Karen Romero Estrada Energy Justice Associate Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles

Tianna Shaw-Wakeman, Environmental Justice Director Black Women for Wellness Action Project