



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, CTW, CLC

June 5, 2017

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200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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**Re: Support for Motion for Land Use And Legal Analysis of
Setback Around Oil and Gas Extraction in Los Angeles (Council
File #17-0447)**

Dear Council President Wesson and Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the 97,000 members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721, I am writing to you to strongly support an ordinance to establish a 2,500-foot setback separating oil and gas extraction in sensitive areas that are close to homes, schools and hospitals.

We applaud the leadership of Council President Wesson for introducing this motion and Councilmembers Bonin, Cedillo, Harris-Dawson, Koretz and Martinez for co-sponsoring the motion.

The City of LA is home to over 900 active oil wells and a staggering 77% of those are located within 2,500 feet of a home, school or hospital. In addition, half of these active oil wells are located in low-income Latino and African-American communities, which already battle long standing environmental hazards.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on issues that directly impact the health and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

Bob Schoonover
President, SEIU Local 721

Cc: Pamm Fair, SEIU Local 721 Political Director

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June 5, 2017

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

Re: Support for Motion for Land Use and Legal Analysis of Setback Around Oil and Gas Extraction in Los Angeles (Council File # 17-0447)

Dear Council President Wesson and Los Angeles City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Pacoima Beautiful. The issue of neighborhood drilling is of special concern to our organization. We believe that the transition to 100% clean renewable energy starts here at home, in the City of Los Angeles.

We respectfully express our support for an ordinance to establish a 2,500-foot setback separating oil and gas extraction operations from sensitive land uses like homes, schools and hospitals. We would also like to express support and gratitude to Council for the motion introduced on April 19, 2017 (Council File # 17-0447) directing the City Attorney, Petroleum Administrator and Department of Planning to perform a legal and land use study of such an ordinance. We applaud the leadership of Council President Wesson introducing this motion and to Councilmembers Bonin, Cedillo, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, and Martinez for co-sponsoring the motion.

Los Angeles is the largest and most densely populated urban oil field in the nation. The City of LA hosts more than 900 active oil wells, with over 77% located within 2,500 feet of a home or sensitive land use such as a school, park or hospital. More than half of the active wells are located in low-income Latino and African-American neighborhoods already overburdened by environmental hazards, such as Wilmington and South L.A. Residents from these neighborhoods have documented serious health problems—including nosebleeds, chronic migraines, nausea, asthma and other respiratory illness—in addition to daily disruption from drilling noise and vibrations, foul odors, and diesel truck traffic.

Oil drilling operations are wholly incompatible with residential neighborhoods, and we urge the Council to act swiftly to pass the motion for a legal and land use study to alleviate the symptoms that front-line communities experience daily. Every Angeleno deserves to live in a safe, healthy neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention and action on matters that directly impact the health and safety of residents living near oil drilling operations. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Veronica Padilla
Executive Director