

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Greg Patrick

**Date Submitted:** 05/13/2025 08:10 PM

**Council File No:** 14-1371-S13

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Mayor Bass and Councilmembers, I'm writing with respect to Council File 14-1371-S13, which proposes amendments to the Living Wage Ordinance and Hotel Worker Minimum Wage Ordinance. As you know, the measure would: • Raise wages for hotel (60+ rooms) and airport workers to \$30/hour by 2028 • Require an additional \$8.35/hour for health benefits (now starting January 1, 2026) • Introduce new paid training mandates and enforcement rules While I support fair compensation for all workers, this proposal arrives at a fragile time for our city's tourism industry—and risks doing more harm than good just as we prepare to welcome the world for the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics. Here's why a pause makes sense: 1. Visitor demand is softening. Visit California forecasts a 9.2% drop in international travelers next year and a 1% decline in total visitation. LAX is still 9% below 2019 passenger levels and has slipped to the 5th busiest U.S. airport. 2. Economic projections are alarming. Oxford Economics estimates the combined impact of the wage and benefit hike could eliminate nearly 15,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion in annual business activity—costing the city \$169 million in tax revenue. 3. Major investments are on hold. Hilton Universal City has said it will pause its \$250 million expansion (and its Olympic room commitment) if this ordinance moves forward. Two local hotels have already closed due to rising costs. 4. It creates an uneven playing field. Only hotels and airport businesses would bear these new costs, making it harder for them to compete with surrounding restaurants and retail—further cutting into jobs, tips, and guest spending. What I respectfully ask: • Delay final action until the Chief Legislative Analyst can provide a full economic impact study (which the Committee has already requested for review in six months). • Align any wage increases with the citywide minimum wage schedule, to avoid isolating one sector. • Explore targeted alternatives, like expanded tax credits or housing vouchers, that support workers without discouraging investment. Los Angeles has the creativity and leadership to pursue smart, equitable solutions—but we can't afford to risk long-term recovery and growth without understanding the full picture. Thank you for your time and for considering this request. Sincerely, Greg Patrick Resident, Los Angeles