

Letter for Council File #17-0447

1 message

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To: City Clerk <Clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thu, May 9, 2019 at 10:16 AM

Letter for Council File #17-0447

I am writing to express my opposition to any proposed oil and gas production setback in the City of Los Angeles. Please submit the below letter to Council File #17-0447.

Thank You,
Ted Baskett

Re: Please oppose the harmful new oil & gas setback requirements

Dear Council President Wesson and Los Angeles City Council:

The Petroleum Administrator is expected to recommend increasing oil production setbacks in his forthcoming Setback Study Report. Local oil and gas producers are an essential part of Los Angeles' economy and provide jobs for working families, tax revenues for important community services and a safe, affordable and reliable energy supply for residents and businesses. Any expanded setback requirement would significantly disrupt local production and greatly diminish these benefits without improving public health or the environment.

More than 8,000 people power Los Angeles' oil and gas industry – union members, veterans, second chancers, single moms, immigrants – to produce the safe, affordable and reliable energy we need in a way that protects people and the environment. The oil and gas workforce is diverse, and allows skilled workers across the educational spectrum to earn a good living with benefits, and achieve upward mobility.

As we examine how to meet the needs of the region's 10 million residents, we must embrace an "all of the above" energy strategy which incorporates all forms of energy – traditional oil and natural gas and renewables such as wind and solar. A production setback threatens to eliminate Los Angeles' capacity to produce any oil and gas locally. Setbacks also impact the ability to develop property surrounding oil wells, magnifying the adverse effects on Los Angeles' economy.

All the oil produced in Los Angeles is used by local refineries to make products Angelenos need every day. If we don't produce energy locally, we are forced to import more of it from countries that don't hire Californians, pay California taxes or apply our stringent safety, labor, and environmental standards. Oil and gas producers in Los Angeles operate under the strictest environmental regulations in the world. More than two dozen federal, state and local agencies oversee oil and natural gas production activities.

There is too much at stake to allow agendas and fear tactics to guide this policy conversation. A setback requirement would hurt L.A.'s economy and significantly disrupt the livelihoods of thousands. We hope you will look at the full picture as you consider the report and its recommendations in the coming weeks.

Thank You,
Ted Baskett