

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

44TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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October 27, 2017

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

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

Dear Council President Wesson and Los Angeles City Council,

Neighborhood oil and gas drilling is a public health crisis in our community. These drilling operations do not belong in residential neighborhoods, and I would like to express my strong support for this ordinance and encourage the establishment of a 2,500-foot setback separating oil and gas extraction operations from homes, schools, hospitals and other protected areas.

The City of Los Angeles is home to the largest and most densely populated urban oil field in the nation. It hosts over 1,000 active oil wells—80 percent of these located within 2,500 feet of protected areas such as homes, schools, healthcare facilities, or churches. More than half of the active wells are located in low-income Latino and African-American neighborhoods already overburdened by environmental hazards, such as the ones that we represent.

Far too often the negative impacts of oil and gas production disproportionately affect communities of color, who feel the brunt of these operations first and worst. Our constituents have seen too many of their neighbors stricken by serious health problems—such as nosebleeds, chronic migraines, nausea, asthma, and other respiratory illnesses—as a result of their living among toxic air emissions. Families in these communities even must go so far as to keep their doors and windows closed so they don't breathe in toxic fumes from the many oil refineries nearby.

It is my hope that the Council will strongly consider passing this ordinance so it can begin alleviating the many symptoms that front-line communities experience daily.

Thank you for your attention and action toward ensuring that every person has a right to clean air and healthy communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nanette Diaz Barragan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nanette" being the most prominent.

Nanette Diaz Barragán

U.S. Representative

California's 44th Congressional District