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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
NATIONAL SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND  
RELATED PROGRAMS

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEE:  
MODERNIZATION & INNOVATION, RANKING MEMBER

June 23, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Secretary  
Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Mr. Stewart Knox  
Secretary  
California Labor & Workforce Development  
Agency  
800 Capitol Mall, Suite 5000 (MIC-55)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer and Secretary Knox:

With temperatures already soaring last month and summer now underway, I request information on how both the Department of Labor (“DOL”) and the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) intend to ensure warehouse workers are provided with critical training, information, and equipment needed during extremely hot days. By law, employers should be providing basic working conditions like water and access to fans to employees. I urge DOL and the LWDA’s California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (“Cal/OSHA”) to take immediate steps to conduct thorough and frequent inspections of warehouses in the Inland Empire to ensure safe indoor working conditions for workers. With Cal/OSHA having finalized an indoor heat protection standard that included warehouses last July and DOL having proposed a rule for “Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings” last August, I also ask that DOL to finalize a strong and enforceable rule that is as protective of workers as possible.

The Inland Empire is a critical logistics hub for our regional and national supply chain network, with nearly 40 percent of America’s imported goods passing through the region. Transportation and warehousing provide around 200,000 jobs across the Inland Empire, supporting many families in my district. In the last few years, Southern California has experienced record-breaking heat, with outdoor temperatures ranging from 106 to 112 degrees in San Bernardino and indoor temperatures as high as 89 degrees. Cal/OSHA received approximately 549 safety complaints related to indoor heat in 2023 and 194 complaints in 2022. Frequent and thorough inspections are critical to ensuring that important heat-related workplace requirements are adhered to and workers’ rights are protected.

Having an indoor heat standard is essential to protecting our workers as they ensure our supply chains—the backbone of our economy—stay strong and resilient. As such, I request a report from each of your teams on DOL and Cal/OSHA’s comprehensive plans to dispatch inspectors to the Inland Empire during

the hottest months of the year, including the critical training, information, and equipment that was provided to workers.

And after the summer months, I also request a follow-up report or briefing on the following:

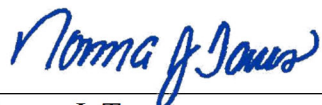
1. Lessons learned from oversight work during the summer months, including the effectiveness of current strategies
2. The conditions warehouse workers experienced and the effects on job performance on the hottest days during the summer months.
3. Future recommendations for warehouse employers to implement based on Cal/OSHA and DOL observations during the summer months, and what steps were taken, if any, after observed violations.

Each year, I have urged DOL and Cal/OSHA to institute an indoor heat standard to ensure warehouse workers in the Inland Empire are protected. For Cal/OSHA, I applaud the finalization and immediate implementation of Cal/OSHA's Heat Illness Prevention in Indoor Places of Employment regulation on July 24, 2024, that requires employers to adopt safety measures that go into effect in most cases when indoor temperatures reach 82°F to prevent the risk of heat illness to workers. In addition to frequent inspections, I urge Cal/OSHA to continue to remind warehouse employers to follow the indoor heat standards in the Inland Empire, especially ahead of heat waves.

As summers continue to get hotter each year, I urge DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") to finalize an indoor heat standard that includes warehouses as soon as possible. On August 30, 2024, OSHA finally published in the Federal Register a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings. On April 30, 2025, OSHA announced informal virtual hearings to be held beginning on June 16, 2025, and ending on July 2, 2025, nearly a year after the proposed rule. **What is the timeline for the finalized rule to be published?**

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your responses addressing my concerns. Should you need any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (202) 225-6161.

Sincerely,



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress