

NORMA J. TORRES
35TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2227 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-6161
FAX: (202) 225-8671

3200 INLAND EMPIRE., SUITE 200B
ONTARIO, CA 91764
PHONE: (909) 481-6474
FAX: (909) 941-1362

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

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT, RANKING MEMBER
ELECTIONS

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Julie A. Su
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
OSHA, N-3718
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

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

Dear Acting Secretary Su and Secretary Knox:

In anticipation of the fast-approaching hot summer months and this week's heat wave, I write to request information on how you 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. I urge the Department of Labor and the 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.

The Inland Empire is a critical logistics hub for our regional and national supply chain network providing over 203,000 good paying transportation and warehousing jobs across the Inland Empire, including many families in my district. To ensure these critically important workplace necessities are provided and workers' rights are protected, the Department of Labor must conduct frequent, thorough inspections. Having an indoor heat standard is essential to protecting our workers as they try to manage our supply chain.

After the summer months, I request a report outlining the following information:

- Outlining the Department of Labor and Cal/OSHA's comprehensive plan 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.
- Detailing how warehouse workers performed on the hottest days during the summer months.
- Actions that Cal/OSHA and the Department of Labor observed, and what steps were taken to address them.

Each year I urge you to institute an indoor heat standard to ensure warehouse workers in my District are protected. We must ensure that an indoor heat standard becomes formalized this year, and we stop pushing it further down the road as the years get hotter. In April, the Department of

Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released its notice of proposed rulemaking for an outdoor and indoor heat rule. I look forward to seeing the proposed and finalized rule soon. **What is the timeline for the finalized rule to be published?**

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. Cal/OSHA received over 549 safety complaints related to indoor heat in 2023, and 194 the year before. I am concerned about heat-related injuries and look forward to your response addressing my concerns. Should you need any additional information, please contact my office at (202) 225-6161.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norma J. Torres". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress