November 20, 2017

Honorable Gil Cedillo, Los Angeles City Councilmember  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 460  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  

Re: Affordable Housing Linkage Fee

Dear Councilmember Cedillo:

The Coalition for a Just LA recognizes your commitment to solutions that address housing affordability in Los Angeles. We applaud your leadership in advocating for thousands of Angelenos burdened by ever increasing housing costs, and we share your unwavering support for a more inclusive, equitable, and affordable city that everyone can call home. Given your similar stances on issues of housing affordability and concerns with displacement, we ask that you waive the Affordable Housing Linkage Fee (linkage fee) out of the Housing Committee so it can advance to the full City Council for a final vote in 2017. The linkage fee will create Los Angeles’ first ever dedicated revenue source for affordable housing and help build and preserve affordable housing for the thousands of Angelenos at risk of falling into homelessness.

Since Mayor Eric Garcetti introduced it two years ago, the Coalition has diligently advocated for the passage of a meaningful linkage fee. After two years, we believe the time is now for the city to finally act and officially approve the proposed linkage fee. With no more housing committee meetings scheduled for this year, we request your help with advancing this key solution to meaningfully address the city’s housing and homelessness crises. Angelenos deserve housing relief now, and the linkage fee will double the annual affordable housing production for those most in need.

The linkage fee has been thoroughly vetted through public comment with one CPC meeting and four PLUM hearings. Hundreds of supporters of this funding source have provided over 17 hours of public comment testimony. Housing advocates across the city have expressed their widespread support. Our broad coalition of local and national community organizations and advocates, affordable housing developers, and civic and religious leaders, has grown to represent more of the City. Furthermore, seven Neighborhood Councils approved community
impact statements in favor of the linkage fee, including your district’s Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council. Simply put, the support is overwhelming.

However, with a proposed 18-month phase-in period, we will not see the full impact of the linkage fee for some time. As a result, we must stress the urgency of adopting the linkage fee as soon as possible.

The Coalition is proud to work and live in a city that has taken proactive measures to address the housing and homelessness crises, including overwhelmingly passing Proposition HHH and Measure H. The linkage fee is an example of yet another positive step the city can take to improve our communities. In fact, the City’s Homelessness Plan includes the linkage fee as part of its comprehensive strategy to address homelessness. Let’s build on this momentum by ensuring the full City Council votes on the linkage fee ordinance before the end of the year. A final vote on the linkage fee and its passage sends a loud message that our city’s elected officials are committed to real solutions in solving the current housing crisis.

The following list of organizations strongly supports advancing the linkage fee ordinance to the full City Council as soon as possible by waiving it out of the Housing Committee. Los Angeles is counting on your support and swift action to make this much-needed ordinance a reality in 2017.

Please let us know if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for a Just Los Angeles

On behalf of:

• A Community of Friends
• AARP California
• Abode Communities
• ACT-LA
• Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment
• Ascensia
• Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles
• Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program
• Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
• Beverly Vermont Community Land Trust
• California Housing Partnership
• InnerCity Struggle
• Innovative Housing Opportunities
• Inquilinos Unidos
• Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA)
• Investing in Place
• Jobs to Move America
• Jovenes, Inc.
• KIWA
• Korean Resource Center
• LA Family Housing
• LA Forward
• Natural Resources Defense Council
• Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles County
• North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry
• PATH Ventures
• Pilipino Workers Center
• Public Counsel
• Rabbi Noah Farkas
• Skid Row Housing Trust
• Southeast Asian Community Alliance
• SCANPH
• SRO Housing
• Clifford Beers Housing
• Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
• Corporation for Supportive Housing
• Downtown Women’s Center
• East LA Community Corporation
• Eastside LEADS
• Enterprise Community Partners
• Esperanza Community Housing Corp
• Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles
• Housing Rights Center
• Hunger Action LA
• IBEW Local 11
• Inclusive Homes
• Inner City Law Center

• LA Voice
• LA County Bicycle Coalition
• Little Tokyo Service Center
• Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
• Los Angeles Black Worker Center
• Los Angeles Community Action Network
• Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
• Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council
• LTSC Community Development Corporation
• Many Mansions
• Mercy Housing California
• Move LA
• National Lawyers Guild – LA

• Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)
• T.R.U.S.T. South LA
• Thai Community Development Center
• The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
• UCLA Labor Center
• Urban and Environmental Policy Institute
• Venice Community Housing
• Ward Economic Development Corporation
• WORKS