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Equitable building decarbonization program

The Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy is excited for the opportunities with the equitable building decarbonization program for there to be funding for direct installation programs that bring real benefits to working class families, create good quality jobs, and increase environmental performance. As such, we echo the comments of many of our allies in supporting the inclusion of tenant protections (such as disallowing landlords from passing on costs associated with retrofits onto renters), community engagement, labor standards, and ways to prioritize investments in underrepresented and frontline communities such as low-income households. It is important that this program be designed in such a way as to limit the costs low-income households would need to provide; additionally we hope to see that undocumented residents are able to access these programs. Given many households face a range of building-related concerns, we hope that these funds are able to leverage and coordinate with other potential funding streams such as to mitigate extreme heat in a household.

To ensure these funds generate well built projects and good jobs, we support the potential for bundling of projects (e.g. one contract to do direct installation in a large number of households) as well as the inclusion of standards on contractors doing work (whether for direct installation or through the incentive program). We would encourage a priority for skilled and trained workforce standards and expect that prevailing wage standards should apply to all projects. We would also encourage measures that ensure workforce development pathways to these jobs via contractors' partnership with state-approved apprenticeship programs.

Thank you for your work on this and we hope to continue the discussion on this important programming.