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To: [Interim Finance Committee](#)
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Hello, my name is Sonya Williams and I am an advocate with Return Strong.

My visit to High Desert State Prison to conduct temperature checks two weeks ago, in this extreme heat, was eye-opening and deeply concerning. Discovering that the swamp coolers meant to provide relief were malfunctioning, pushing out hot, humid air due to boiling water inputs. Being briefly confined in a cell myself, I instantly felt the suffocating change in temperature—a stark reminder of the inhumane conditions offenders endure. It's incomprehensible that two grown men are trapped in 6x9 cells with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees, exacerbated by humidity, throughout the day.

Witnessing the administration's efforts to find immediate solutions was heartening, but the reality remains. With temperatures rising, it's clear that temporary fixes won't suffice. We hold ourselves accountable for leaving children or pets in hot cars, yet we allow human beings to endure unbearable conditions day in and day out. Leaving the prison that day, drenched in sweat, I was grateful for the relief of air conditioning in my car—yet saddened knowing offenders experience no such relief. They endure the heat constantly—living, sleeping, showering, and eating in oppressive conditions.

As citizens, we must advocate for humane treatment and sustainable solutions to ensure that no human being suffers such extreme conditions, regardless of their circumstances.