

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2009

Omar Benjamin  
Executive Director  
Port of Oakland  
530 Water St.  
Oakland CA 94607

Dear Mr. Benjamin,

As Congressional Representatives from throughout the Bay Area, we have been monitoring your efforts in Oakland to develop a Comprehensive Truck Management Program (CTMP). As you know, we are on record supporting reforms to the port trucking industry that reduce the health impacts from diesel truck pollution in surrounding port communities and improve working conditions and labor standards for port truck drivers.

We applaud the Port of Los Angeles' Clean Trucks Program for being a comprehensive and sustainable approach to dealing with the myriad of issues surrounding port trucking, and we are committed to supporting the program.

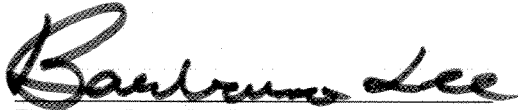
As you know, the recent study released by the Coalition for Clean & Safe Ports, "Taking a Toll" highlights the need for immediate action on this important issue. The costs to public health from diesel pollution are just too high to delay action.

We are aware that the first deadline under California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulations governing port trucks are set to go into effect on January 1, 2010, and that those regulations will bring desperately-needed air quality improvements to communities throughout the Bay Area. With the recent designation of the Bay Area as a non-attainment area for national air quality standards, we look forward to the prompt passage of a CTMP that includes both environmental and labor standards.


We are pleased about the draft release of the economic study you commissioned Beacon Economics to conduct, and its assessment of the applicability of the Port of Los Angeles' Clean Trucks Program to Oakland. We concur with the recommendation that "The movement towards a more employment-based system could enhance the efficiency of the current system, the ability to respond to pressing and future challenges, and the Port's ability to grow."

We know you agree with us that we cannot delay in addressing the growing public health crisis from diesel pollution. We also appreciate the broader financial and infrastructure challenges facing the port. As such, please let us know how we can help you to move forward with quickly passing a CTMP in June, so that the emissions reductions promised under CARB regulations are realized now and in the future.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee, M.C.



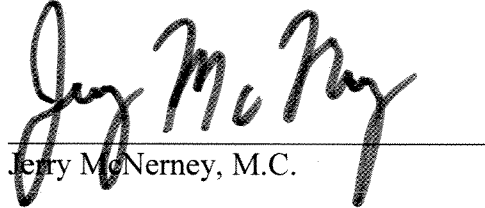
Lynn Woolsey, M.C.



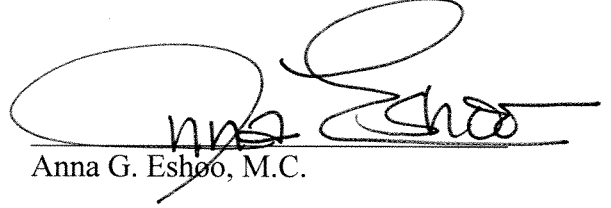
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George Miller, M.C.



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