



E2 Morning Round-up: Nadler floats 'clean ports' bill

By Darren Goode - 07/29/10 07:22 AM ET

Nadler to float "clean ports" bill with union, enviro backing

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) plans to introduce a bill Thursday that allows shipping ports to implement tougher air pollution requirements due to concern over emissions from diesel trucks. Nadler is circulating a letter seeking supporters that says 87 million people live in areas adjacent to ports that fail to meet air quality standards. The bill amends federal law that currently limits the ability of state and local governments to regulate trucking companies for anything other than safety. Those limits are creating problems for a landmark "Clean Truck Program" in the Port of Los Angeles that's deploying "clean" diesel and alternative energy vehicles, his letter states.

"Ports around the country – like the port terminals in New York and New Jersey, Oakland, Seattle and Miami – are grappling with similar obstacles presented by port trucking, but are unable to implement a comprehensive program given the legal uncertainty and injunction against the program in Los Angeles," Nadler writes.

"I have drafted legislation to update federal law to ensure that ports can enact and enforce Clean Truck programs. This legislation is supported by a broad coalition of civic, environment, labor, and civil rights groups such as the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Change to Win, Blue Green Alliance, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Sierra Club, Apollo Alliance and NRDC," he adds. Nadler has gotten some lawmakers on board already -- including Reps. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), Donna Edwards (D-Md.) and several members of the California delegation.