

**FRANK R. LAUTENBERG**

NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

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PUBLIC WORKS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 14, 2008

Rebecca F. Dye  
Commissioner  
Federal Maritime Commission  
800 North Capitol St, NW  
Washington, DC 20573

Harold J. Creel, Jr.  
Commissioner  
Federal Maritime Commission  
800 North Capitol St, NW  
Washington, DC 20573

Joseph E. Brennan  
Commissioner  
Federal Maritime Commission  
800 North Capitol St, NW  
Washington, DC 20573

Dear Commissioners Dye, Creel, and Brennan:

I write regarding recent actions by U.S. seaports to improve air quality, efficiency of maritime port operations, and accountability of companies doing business with the ports. Such programs, including the San Pedro Bay Ports' Clean Trucks Program, have laudable goals and could serve as national models for improving the efficiency and environmental impact of port operations throughout the country.

I am particularly pleased that the San Pedro Bay Ports' Clean Trucks Program in the Los Angeles/Long Beach region reflects the regional consensus of most of the nearby communities as well as the companies operating at these ports, and to the extent the Commission has played a role in facilitating this cooperation, I commend you.

While we must take steps to ensure improved air quality at our ports, I recognize the Commission has certain duties to identify and prevent certain uncompetitive practices by ports. The approach the Commission is currently taking appears to carefully balance these goals by continuing to exert jurisdiction over programs like Clean Trucks in a manner which will not unnecessarily delay or impede their implementation and the critical environmental benefits they will provide.

I expect your continued vigilance and applaud the Commission's actions to allow programs like Clean Trucks to move forward. I ask that you keep my staff informed about the Commission's actions as you continue your oversight work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank R. Lautenberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "L".

Frank R. Lautenberg

Chairman

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and  
Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and  
Security

Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation