



CLEAN AIR, GOOD JOBS



The Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice held a Candlelight Vigil to support Port truck drivers struggling to survive. Photo by Brooke Anderson.

Holiday Greetings from the Coalition for Clean & Safe Ports!

Dear friends,

What a great year it's been for our Coalition! It's been a time of mobilization, action and tremendous growth.

This year, we made history when the Port of L.A. launched the first sustainable Clean Trucks Program in the nation. Mayor Dellums vowed that Oakland would be next. We have succeeded in keeping the Oakland Port Commission focused on the need to take action to reform the Port trucking system, and have refused to allow the Port to put adoption of a Comprehensive Truck Management Program on the back burner. Attached below, you'll find a list of some of our greatest accomplishments.

Today, we face both an economic crisis and a global warming crisis. In these times of belt tightening, it's tempting for public officials to fall back on the tired, old ways of doing things. The old way was to pit seemingly conflicting interests against one

another in a contest for allocation of shrinking government funds. Some say we cannot afford environmental clean-up at this time. But how can we afford not to? Now is the time for bold, new thinking and action. For in this time of crisis, we find great opportunity. Let's build a green jobs economy that ends the assault on our environment while re-building America's middle class.

With our friend Barack Obama in the White House to lead the way, Oakland can be on the frontlines of the green revolution. As President-elect Obama said, "We have faced difficult times before, times when our economic destiny seemed to be slipping out of our hands. And at each moment, we have risen to meet the challenge, as one people united by a sense of common purpose. And I know that Americans can rise to the moment once again."

When Mayor Dellums was elected, he articulated his vision to 1) work collaboratively to make Oakland a center for world trade; 2) work with the community to create more benefits for local residents; and 3) reduce environmental impacts while stimulating sustainable development. Omar Benjamin confirmed that vision's alignment with the Port's strategic plan in his first major speech as the Port's Executive Director. The Clean Trucks Program epitomizes the Mayor's vision.

This month, Mayor Dellums appointed two new Commissioners to the Port. We welcome Pamela Calloway and James Head and look forward to working with them to reform the broken Port trucking system. Beacon Economics is expected to complete a study for the Port of Oakland on the economic impact of the employee provision in January. The Port's timeline for action on the Comprehensive Truck Management Plan, as posted on the Port's web site, calls for a vote in March. The Port Commission should vote on the CTMP as soon as the Beacon study is completed.

Let's make 2009 the year in which we green the Port of Oakland with good middle class Port truck driver jobs and reverse the public health epidemic that is plaguing our communities surrounding the Port with high rates of cancer and asthma! Let's get to work, and let's get it done in early '09!

Our environmental-labor-community coalition continues to be effective in advocating for a sustainable solution that protects our health and the environment and paves the way for good jobs for our community. We look forward to continuing to work together in partnership as we move forward to victory.

Wishing you happy holidays and a New Year of good jobs and clean air!

Sincerely,

Doug Bloch
Coalition Director

Aditi Vaidya
Coalition Organizer

2008 Coalition Greatest Accomplishments

“ The Port of Los Angeles adopted the first comprehensive Clean Trucks Program (CTP) in the nation. Overnight, air pollution was significantly reduced. Old trucks are being replaced with new, state of the art rigs that meet the highest environmental standards and drivers are being hired as employees. Despite industry efforts to stop implementation of the CTP through litigation, the CTP moves forward, and the industry has lost several rounds in court. The Federal Maritime Commission is attempting to block imposition of cargo fees by Southern California Ports that will fund incentives for replacing old, dirty trucks with new, clean trucks. This month, a Federal Judge, while skeptical of the FMC's arguments, delayed ruling until next year on the FMC's attempt to block the CTP under the Shipping Act. Our Coalitions in LA and Oakland launched an email petition calling on California Members of Congress - all whom have stood up to protect the LA Clean Trucks Program - to take a stand for public health, a green economy, and the environment by telling the Bush Administration to leave the Clean Trucks Program alone. Please Click Here to sign the petition: <http://www.cleanports.org/FMC2008&msource=FMC2008>

“ The Coalition organized several demonstrations and marches throughout the year. With a great assist from the California Labor Federation and the Alameda Labor Council, we held a rally with Mayor Ron Dellums and LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in support of a Clean Trucks Program for Oakland. Thousands of elected leaders, community supports and Port truck drivers marched from City Hall to the Port. The demonstration was covered by nearly every major Bay Area media organization.

“ The Coalition grew to more than 80 elected leaders and organizations and had a strong presence at Port Commission meetings throughout the year where Coalition members spoke out forcefully and were effective advocates for a sustainable solution to the broken Port Trucking System.

“ Seminarians for Worker Justice and the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice conducted a Port tour for St. Martin de Porres Middle School students enrolled in a Social Justice class. Nearly every student either suffers from asthma or has a family member who does. The students heard from Coalition members and Port drivers about the benefits and negative impacts of having the Port in their neighborhood and what we can do to improve air quality and employment opportunities. Several students participated in a Coalition Rally and March for Good Jobs and Clean Air.

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