

**BARBARA LEE**  
9TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS  
Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies

Subcommittee on  
State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs  
Subcommittee on  
Legislative Branch



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515-0509**

REPLY TO OFFICE CHECKED

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May 27, 2008

Mr. Omar Benjamin  
Executive Director  
Port of Oakland  
530 Water Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

I write to express my support for the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports' proposal for a Comprehensive Clean Trucks Program for the Port of Oakland. I am aware that the Port has been working for some time on a Clean Trucks Program and I recognize this is a complex issue involving multiple stakeholders and a broad range of critical issues which includes the environment, health, labor and the economic welfare of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

As we work to ensure the Port thrives in its role as a major economic engine for the Bay Area and beyond, we must make the health and well being of the residents surrounding the Port a top priority. The implementation of the Comprehensive Clean Trucks Program for Oakland will lead our collective efforts in the right direction by addressing local air quality and raising working conditions and labor standards for Port truck drivers, as well as improving the health and welfare of the surrounding port communities.

By setting tough standards to clean up truck diesel emissions and providing subsidies for vehicle purchases and retrofitting of their equipment, the Clean Trucks Program is a win-win for all interested parties. In addition, it is my understanding that one potential solution offered by the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports is to have Port truck drivers be employees of the companies that hire them to work in the Port area. I encourage your full consideration of all the aspects of this program. Consideration of this proposal may ultimately give truck "contractors" the option to bargain collectively for fair compensation and improved working conditions.

The Port is poised in a unique position to institute an innovative policy that will put Oakland on the cutting edge of creating a sustainable economy in which the great majority of our residents may prosper. Toward that end, it is my strong hope that you will give the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports' Comprehensive Clean Trucks Program proposal every consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress