



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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***Attention Assignment Editors, Correspondents and Reporters:  
Media Advisory and Daybook Item for Monday, March 17, 2008***

## **Enviros, Oakland Residents, Port Drivers and their Advocates to March for Clean Air & Good Jobs**

### **Oakland City Hall to the Port**

**OAKLAND –** On the eve before Oakland Port Commissioners take a vote on the first step towards instituting a new trucking model to reduce diesel emissions, a coalition of port drivers, community members and public health advocates will stage a march from City Hall to the Port to urge a comprehensive, sustainable solution to address the concerns of working families and the environment.

**Who:** Community activists, religious leaders, environmentalists and Oakland Port drivers

**What:** Demonstration to send a message to City and Port Officials to adopt a comprehensive Clean Trucks Program for Oakland

**When:** Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm

**Where:** Gathering at Oakland City Hall, followed by a March down Broadway to the Port.

**Visuals:** Rally with speeches by supporters of the Clean Trucks Program  
Marching crowd with "Good Jobs & Clean Air" signs  
Poster size letters presented at the Mayor's Office and Port

**Why:** West Oakland suffers from a public health crisis and chronic unemployment. Oakland Port diesel soot is associated with high rates of cancer and asthma attacks. One in five West Oakland children has asthma. Port drivers, whose health is also at risk, work for poverty wages in sweatshop conditions and are unable to afford the truck replacement or upgrades necessary to meet new State mandated stronger environmental standards. Meanwhile, the capitalized trucking companies and their rich shipper clients like Wal-Mart and Target oppose any proposal that would require industry to take responsibility for the workers and new clean-burning trucks.

When Mayor Ron Dellums was elected, he articulated a vision for Oakland that includes reducing environmental impacts, stimulating sustainable development and working with the community to create more benefits for local residents. Organizations united in the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports have been working for over a year to enact a real solution to the broken port trucking system in line with the Mayor's vision. A comprehensive and successful Clean Trucks Program would:

- Make the profitable industry responsible for the cost of clean air;
- End the "sweatshop on wheels" system;
- Create a strong local jobs program; and
- Grant "independent" drivers employee status giving them the right to join a union.

The Coalition is ready to help Mayor Dellums create a world-class city with a healthy environment and a stable market in which trucking businesses, drivers and local residents prosper by sharing the benefits of the global economy that they help make possible.

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*The Coalition for Clean & Safe Ports is an alliance of environmental, labor, faith, and community organizations promoting sustainable economic development at West Coast ports. We are working to clean up the port trucking industry, reduce environmentally harmful port emissions, and stimulate greater economic opportunities for surrounding port communities. To ensure a level playing field, the Coalition is organizing at the Ports of Oakland, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Seattle, so that standards are lifted regionally and no one port is put at a competitive disadvantage.*