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Assembly
California Legislature



SANDRÉ R. SWANSON
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTEENTH DISTRICT

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WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

December 04, 2007

Omar Benjamin, Executive Director
Port of Oakland
530 Water St
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

Thank you for your participation in the recent joint hearing conducted by the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment and the Select Committee on Ports. The hearing, "Intermodal Transportation System Revisited: Exploring Solutions for Port Drivers and Surrounding Communities – A Bay Area Perspective", made it clear that no matter what side of the issue stakeholders are on, it is imperative that every sector in this industry take an active role in developing a holistic solution that will better meet the needs of the workers, the ports and the surrounding community. We will now focus on using the information presented at the hearing to make substantive recommendations to the state legislature.

We are deeply concerned by testimony from doctors regarding the health impacts of current trucking system on port drivers and on the West Oakland community. It is clear that because of their employment classification many drivers cannot afford to buy and/or maintain green trucks and the resulting affects are high rates of asthma and an unstable workforce, ultimately passing on these costs onto impoverished drivers, the surrounding West Oakland community, and California taxpayers.

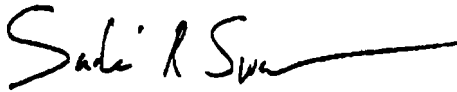
We understand that you are acutely aware of the need for the Port Oakland to grow and remain competitive while balancing the need to reduce public health impacts and provide economic benefits for surrounding communities. To accomplish this, we urge you to pass a comprehensive clean trucks program.



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Once again, thank you for taking an active role this area and participation in this hearing. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff members, Ben Ebbink, Chief Consultant for the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment (916) 319-2091 or at benjamin.ebbink@asm.ca.gov or Terri Waller, District Director for Assemblymember Loni Hancock at (510) 559-1406 or terri.waller@asm.ca.gov on any future matters. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandré R. Swanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sandré R. Swanson
Assemblymember, 16th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Hancock". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first letters being larger and more prominent.

Loni Hancock
Assemblymember, 14th District