



**For Immediate Release**  
October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

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**Statement from Vicente Alba, Board Chairperson, and Marian Feinberg,  
Environmental Health Coordinator of For a Better Bronx, on the one-year anniversary  
of the Los Angeles Clean Truck Program**

"One year ago, communities along the major trucking routes in Los Angeles celebrated a landmark step towards improving air quality and the human health of residents throughout the metropolitan region when the City of Los Angeles approved the Clean Truck Program. This program successfully sought to decrease pollution from dirty diesel-spewing trucks traveling to and from the largest ports in the country, but has unfortunately been challenged in the courts by the trucking industry.

"Like communities in Los Angeles, the Bronx suffers from diesel pollution related to port trucking. It is home to the port-connected Hunts Point Market, the largest regional food distribution center in the US, with 20,000 truck trips per week. The South Bronx is encircled by overcrowded diesel truck-filled highways used to bring freight between the Ports of New York and New Jersey and throughout the New York City region, Long Island and areas in upstate New York and New England. The Cross Bronx Expressway, a major piece of Interstate 95, is the most congested bottleneck in the US. While dirty, diesel-polluting trucks virtually idle along this on these roads during many hours a day, nearby communities in the Bronx suffer from significantly decreased air quality.

"As a result, these same Bronx communities have some of the worst diesel pollution in New York City and according to the NYC Department of Health, have hospitalization rates nearly twice the NYC average for asthma and 50% higher for heart disease. The risk for both of these diseases has been extensively connected to diesel soot.

"On this one year anniversary of the Clean Truck Program, we gladly join with organizations and leaders throughout the country in calling for an amendment to federal law. Bringing the outdated federal transportation law into the 21<sup>st</sup> century would mean that communities like the Bronx, that are suffering the brutal consequences of diesel pollution from port trucks, could breathe cleaner air."

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