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LA's Clean Truck Program Must be Replicated in Oakland and Beyond Congressional Action Needed to Protect Clean Air Efforts Nationwide

Statement by Michael Green, Executive Director of the Center for Environmental Health on the one year achievements of bold port clean-up program

Oakland, CA- "Congratulations to Southern California residents, environmentalists and truck drivers who fought for the Los Angeles Clean Truck Program and now breathe cleaner air one year later. The Center for Environmental Health applauds the leadership of the City of Los Angeles and its Port for putting this visionary, successful program in place.

"Oakland is working hard to emulate the LA approach. Last year, standing side by side with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums pledged that Oakland would be the next city to adopt such a plan. That moment inspired hope, because LA's action has delivered results. For example:

- 2,000 of the most polluting trucks have been eliminated from service;
- Nearly 6,000 new, clean trucks are operating at the Port of L.A.;
- The L.A. Port's goal of reducing its goal of an 80% reduction in truck pollution is expected to be met three years ahead of schedule.

"But on a day we should be celebrating, we condemn the legal attacks by the American Trucking Association, the Virginia-based industry lobby that threw a wrench into the LA program before it was fully implemented, when it sued the Port. This threatens to stall or reverse the emissions reductions achieved and prevent effective clean-air plans from being enacted at polluting trade hubs around the country.

"The Port of Oakland seeks to grow. Without sustainable environmental measures in place, any proposed expansion that brings more cargo traffic will also bring more diesel pollution, and therefore more asthma, cancer and premature death in the Bay Area.

"It's time for the cargo and shipping industry to take responsibility for cleaning up the dirty mess it creates in the course of moving goods and making great profits. Residents and workers are paying too high a price with our hearts, lungs and lives.

"In July, the Oakland Port Commission formally urged Congress to update federal law to ensure ports have real power to clean up diesel truck pollution and improve security and safety. Our leaders in Washington should take note. The Center for Environmental Health is proud to join the over 100 coalition partners around the country who are helping educate our elected leaders about what local communities need to breathe easier, once and for all."

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Oakland-based CEH has a twelve-year track record of protecting children from hidden health hazards in consumer products and protecting communities from health hazards related to toxic pollution. CEH also works with major industries and leaders in green business to promote healthier alternatives to toxic products and practices.