

# TEAMSTERS NEWS

International Brotherhood

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20001 • [www.teamster.org](http://www.teamster.org)



of Teamsters

202-624-6911 • fax: 202-624-6918

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**Contact: Coral Lopez**  
**(310) 956-5712**  
**[coral.lopez@changetowin.org](mailto:coral.lopez@changetowin.org)**

## **TEAMSTERS URGE CONGRESS TO PROTECT SUCCESSFUL PORT OF LOS ANGELES TRUCK EMISSIONS-REDUCTION PROGRAM**

***Statement by Fred Potter, IBT Port Division Director, on the Environmental and Economic Benefits of the LA Clean Truck Program***

“Twelve months ago the Port of Los Angeles enacted a smart, innovative policy to combat pollution, protect public health, and enforce safety and security measures. The program banned 2,000 of the oldest, diesel-emitting trucks and put nearly 6,000 clean-burning vehicles into service, clearing the roadblocks to job-creating expansion projects. But industry clean-air opponents seeking to further profit off of dirty trucks and cheap labor have severely threatened the program’s long-term success by taking the program to court.

“Today, as we highlight the one-year achievements of the Clean Truck Program, we stand with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the City of Los Angeles and its Board of Harbor Commissioners, and the over 100 environmental, community, labor and public health organizations in our national coalition that are vigorously working to protect it. Congress must step in to ensure that licensed motor carriers – not underpaid, hard-working immigrant drivers – can be held responsible for the purchase and upkeep of the equipment operating under their authority. Otherwise today’s new clean trucks will begin spewing toxins tomorrow.

“As 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges force elected leaders to grapple with how best to take care of the environment, our economy, and the working families who depend on both, not one or the other, one thing is increasingly clear: The laws that governed the last century are not sufficient for local and state officials to aggressively address the public health impacts facing workers, residents, and taxpayers in metropolitan trade hubs along our coastlines.

“We applaud the leadership of America’s major ports for educating Congress about the tools they need to stimulate the economy, spur environmentally-sound future expansion, and level the playing field for companies to compete responsibly. The Teamsters are working side-by-side with our partners to do the same. Our nation’s ports must have the ability to clean the air, create good, green jobs, and help make port trucking more efficient and profitable again.”

Founded in 1903, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents 1.4 million hardworking men and women in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.