



Clergy and Laity United
for Economic Justice

Statement by Rabbi Jonathan D. Klein of on the Progress and Future of the Los Angeles Clean Truck Program

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"Faith leaders throughout Los Angeles and Long Beach are proud to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Clean Trucks Program. As leaders with a calling to provide stewardship of this planet, the 5,000 new clean trucks now driving through our communities are a breath of fresh air.

At the same time, it is too early to celebrate. Wealthy lobbyists from the American Trucking Association still stand in the way of another core component of the Clean Trucks Program—economic stability for truck drivers. The cost of clean of air should not be put on the backs of the working poor.

Requiring impoverished truck drivers to buy and then continue to pay for the maintenance of their trucks, industry leaders fail to clean the air and instead, 'trample on the heads of the poor as upon the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed' (Amos 2:7).

While celebrating many successes of the Clean Trucks Program, as faith leaders we cannot ignore the ongoing economic injustices pervading the trucking industry. Therefore we call on Congress and our elected officials to bring transportation law into the 21st century by giving our cities the tools to hold businesses responsible for clean air, good health, AND good jobs."

Since 1996, CLUE-LA has organized faith leaders of all varieties, channeling their unique talents and moral authority to achieve economic justice, self-empowerment and respect for the working poor. CLUE-LA works with over 600 community leaders, representing a broad spectrum of faiths, ethnicities and geographic regions within Los Angeles. CLUE-LA has carved out a unique niche, constructing a nationally-replicated "faith-rooted organizing" model. CLUE-LA uniquely addresses issues of economic oppression faced by ethnic communities, often bringing disparate groups and potential allies committed to issues such as immigration reform, environmental protection, affordable housing, and youth crime reduction together.