

The Honorable Norm Dicks
The Honorable Jim McDermott
The Honorable Adam Smith
The Honorable Jay Inslee
The Honorable Brian Baird
The Honorable Rick Larsen
The Honorable Dave Reichert
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20510

September 17, 2010

Dear Members of Congress:

We write to ask for your enthusiastic support of the Clean Ports Act of 2010, H.R. 5967. Outdated provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Act currently preempt maritime port authorities from comprehensively addressing the environmental, efficiency and safety problems associated with harbor trucking operations.

The Clean Ports Act would allow port authorities to craft locally appropriate solutions to the challenge posed by harbor trucking. Specifically, it would allow local authorities to “to adopt requirements for motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles providing services at port facilities that are reasonably related to the reduction of environmental pollution, traffic congestion, the improvement of highway safety, or the efficient utilization of port facilities”.

As environmental, labor, faith and community organizations in Washington State, we are deeply concerned that federal law now preempts local efforts to improve environmental, safety and efficiency of harbor trucking operations. The May 5th [hearing](#) before the Highways & Transit Subcommittee of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee brought to light an industry still plagued with polluting trucks; misclassified, poorly treated workers; and efficiency problems. This bill provides a legal avenue to help address these issues. This is important as these problems could grow worse as Port freight traffic expands this year.

The Clean Port Act of 2010 will remove a barrier to potential solutions for reducing pollution and improving worker safety. Please support it with the full force of your office.

Sincerely,



Paul Marvy
Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports

Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club

Church Council of Greater Seattle

Community Coalition for Environmental Justice

International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Joint Council 28

International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 52

LIUNA Northwest Regional Organizing Council

Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State

Minority Executive Directors Coalition

People for Puget Sound

Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans

Puget Sound Sage

SEIU Washington State Council

SEIU Healthcare 775NW

SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

SEIU Local 6

SEIU Local 925

United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 21

Washington Association of Churches

Washington Community Action Network

Washington State Democratic Party

Washington Toxics Coalition