

DAILY BREEZE

Monday, December 16, 2019

An Open Letter to the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners and the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners

As the officials that oversee the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, you are approaching an historic opportunity to clean our region's air and greatly improve health outcomes for our families. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to give our children, and their children, a better future.

We recognize that the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are economic engines that provide good-paying jobs and keep America's goods flowing by ship, rail and truck. Unfortunately, diesel exhaust from the big rig trucks bringing our goods to market continue to pollute our air, contributing to high rates of asthma, heart disease, lung cancer and other health problems for Southern Californians. Our region needs to do more to not only regain the mantle as a global environmental leader, but to finally become a region with air that is not harmful for our families to breathe.

While air pollution from the Ports has decreased over the past several decades, we still have a long way to go. Southern California remains, by far, the most polluted area in the nation.

In just three years, nearly 8,000 of the oldest diesel port trucks will be banned by state law. We are asking that you do not adopt rules that would allow these banned trucks to be replaced with more diesel trucks, spewing more harmful pollution into our communities. The old trucks must be replaced by the cleanest technologies available that meet port operational needs.

We call on you to follow the lead of 24 European cities that have taken steps to ban diesel over the coming decade. Allowing diesel trucks to continue operations at the ports will come at a tremendous cost to the health of our region.

We urge you to support our effort to end diesel. We can't afford to let one more generation grow up under a cloud of smog. The time to act is now.

Respectfully,

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