

Mayor Bob Foster
333 West. Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor
Long Beach, California 90802

Open Letter to Mayor Bob Foster Regarding the Port of Long Beach

When you ran for Mayor in 2006, cleaning up the Port of Long Beach (POLB) was a major theme of your campaign. You rightly stated that the pollution coming from the port was intolerable, and pledged to make *reduction* of this pollution a top priority. It's two years later, and what do we have to show for it? Thousands of our residents still needlessly die every year due to staggering and growing levels of pollution, while the POLB continues to grow. Harbor Commissioners have unanimously voted to cripple the Clean Trucks Program, dooming it to failure. While delays on the alleged Clean Air Action Plan were so extensive that a coalition of environmental groups have sued both the POLB and you individually. And despite caving to industry demands to gut the clean trucks program of its employee protection provisions, the POLB is still being sued by industry. The result is that our City continues to bear intolerable impacts from port pollution.

As Mayor of Long Beach, you have an unparalleled ability to address this problem. And as your constituents, we demand you fulfill your campaign pledge, and direct the Harbor Commissioners to begin making *meaningful reductions* in the amount of pollution the POLB generates, starting today. The current 90-day notice provided by environmental litigants is an ideal opportunity to turn around at the POLB. At a minimum, we urge you to take the following actions:

- Direct the Harbor Commissioners to negotiate in good faith with the environmental litigants, so that taxpayer funds don't have to be wasted arguing against the best interests of the citizens of our City. That money could be much better spent meeting the critical needs of our City, especially with looming budget deficits and cutbacks.
- Fulfill your other campaign pledge to create safe, clean blue-collar jobs for our workforce by recommitting to the employee driver provision of the Clean Trucks Plan. It's common sense: individuals should not have to shoulder the burden of owning, operating, maintaining, and now, replacing costly big rigs in order to clean up the port. Without this provision, truckers simply won't be able to afford to meet new environmental guidelines without huge taxpayer subsidies, and even if clean trucks are put on the road, without proper maintenance they won't be clean for long.

We look forward to your swift action on this vital issue.

Sincerely,
The undersigned