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# Assembly California Legislature



**MIKE A. GIPSON**  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

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THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR  
PORTS AND GOODS MOVEMENT

August 6, 2019

**Mayor Robert Garcia and Long Beach City Council Members**  
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

It is with great pleasure that we submit this letter of support of **Steven Neal** as you consider him for the **Board of Harbor Commissioners**.

Mr. Neal has served his community a Long Beach City Councilmember, Commissioner on many City boards, activist, faith leader, advocate for working families, champion of quality healthcare and much more throughout the region.

He is absolutely qualified for this historic and unique opportunity to become the first person from the North Long Beach community and second African American man to be appointed to the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

The Port of Long Beach, one of the nation's busiest seaports, is a trailblazer in sustainability, goods movement, and its generous support for community organizations. These accomplishments are due to the leadership and diligence of the Board of Commissioners. As the former Ninth District Councilmember and an active board member to several agencies and local non-profits, Neal offers a perspective that is sure to strengthen the Port's commitment to our local neighborhoods.

Mr. Neal remains committed to safeguarding the economic livelihoods of the women and men who work on our waterfront, and the local businesses that benefit from the Port's infusion into the local economy. He is committed to making sure that this workforce has the training they need to keep themselves safe, and to aide in protecting against threats and suspicious activity in one of the nation's most attractive terrorism targets. Their eyes, ears and response can never be matched by robots.

I urge you to vote in support of appointing Steven Neal to the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

Respectfully,

**Mike A. Gipson**  
Assemblymember, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
Chair, Assembly Democratic Caucus

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