



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce



December 1, 2009

Hon. Tonia Reyes-Uranga,
Hon. Gerrie Schipske,
Hon. Rae Gabelich,
Long Beach City Council
333 West Ocean Blvd. 14th floor
Long Beach, California 90802

**OPPOSE: Council Item 13: Report on NRDC Appeal of ATA Settlement and Board of Harbor
Commission Resolution No. HD-2538**

Dear Councilmembers:

On behalf of the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce and FuturePorts, we urge you to maintain the legal settlement between the Port of Long Beach (Port) and the American Trucking Association (ATA). This agreement was reached in good faith after lengthy negotiations. After-the-fact attempts to re-open the issue would significantly compromise the City of Long Beach's considerable success in both reducing pollution and demonstrating a strong, pro-jobs economic climate.

We applaud the Port's successful efforts to enact strong environmental standards and a pro-jobs plan to grow commerce in the Southern California region. This settlement has been hailed around the nation as evidence that environmental and economic sustainability are not mutually exclusive. As evidence, private trucking companies have quickly adapted to the new environmental requirements of plan with largely self-funded equipment upgrades. Almost 90 percent of the dirty trucks will be banned from the port by the end of the year.

As you know, this issue has been highly political at every step of the way. The Port of Long Beach and the City Council have done extraordinary work to cut through the special interest issues on all sides and develop this very balanced, effective plan. This belated effort compromises that great work at a time when we all need our elected officials to rise above the politics-as-usual to focus on win-win strategies that create jobs, protect our environment and move this economy forward.

Our organizations – and the 800,000 employees in Southern California that we represent – oppose this effort and support the settlement. Now, let's get back to work and implement this plan now.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
President and CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Elizabeth Warren
Executive Director
Future Ports