

38

# **SAN PEDRO & PENINSULA HOMEOWNER'S COALITION**

Averill Park Homeowner's - Barton Hill Assn. - La Rambla Neighborhood Group - Leland Park Homeowner's - Rolling Hills Riviera Homeowner's - San Pedro Peninsula Homeowner's United Inc. - Palos Verdes Shores - South Shores Homeowner's Association - The Palisades Homeowner's - Point Fermin Homeowner's Assn.

**P.O. BOX 1106  
SAN PEDRO, CA 90733**

March 20, 2007

Mayor Foster &  
Long Beach City Council  
City Hall  
Long Beach, CA

**RE: Lowenthal Bill #SB 974**

Dear Mayor Foster and City Council Members-

Our Homeowners have long supported the idea of the shipping industry shouldering the responsibility of their industry's impacts upon the local port communities and affected region. However, we find that this Bill, in it's current state, needs amendments to ensure that the direction that it takes us better fulfills that obligation in it's entirety.

Unfortunately, it seems as if the original intent of this Bill, envisioned as a way to offset negative impacts environmentally, has been compromised. It appears that in order to get the buy in of the Ports and shippers, the Bill is offering methodologies that can be used to facilitate growth that will continue to jeopardize those neighborhoods closest to transportation corridors and cargo facilities.

A poll conducted on Jan. 3 through Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> of this year, by Harris Interactive, surveyed 6,576 people in the USA, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. The results demonstrated overwhelming support for the belief that industrial companies should be taxed according to the amount of pollution they produce. Asked whether they supported the "polluter must pay" idea for industry-that the more a company pollutes, the more it should be taxed-82% of Americans agreed. 92 % said yes in France, Italy, and Spain, with 89% of Germans and 81% of Britons agreeing.

This is simply a common sense approach. It has taken far too long to begin a responsible approach to Port industry's environmental impacts to start out on a foot that is already disabled to some degree. We need to aspire to a plan that will serve us better and reflect a greater concern.

We are very grateful to Assemblyman Lowenthal for this much needed first step, but we feel compelled, from a Community perspective, to have stronger protections in this bill. We look to Assemblyman Lowenthal's continued leadership on these critically important Port issues, and urge him to endorse changes to this Bill that will grant better reliability to affected communities in achieving positive changes.

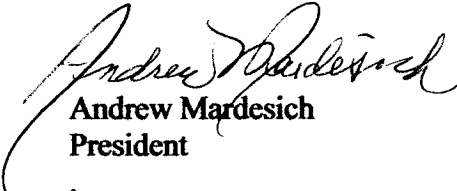
**We also applaud Councilwoman Reyes-Uranga's work on the issue of air pollution. Through her committed involvement on this issue her testimonies have shown that she has fully recognized the problems associated with Port growth and it's heinous effects on human health. We look to your education on this issue and your involvement with the AQMD to ensure that your Long Beach constituents, and all local residents, are better protected by your assistance in amending this Bill.**

**We have not been involved in the crafting of this Bill. Had our Community been invited, we would have pushed for language that would afford us more protection. We hope that this City Council will move to approve this Bill only after more stringent controls are adopted into it's text**

**Again, we are most anxious to get a process of accountability started, but not at the risk of doing more harm than good. Please exercise your authority as Council Members to adopt stronger language that will benefit all of our Harbor Communities residents.**

**Thank you.**

**Sincerely,**

  
**Andrew Mardesich**  
**President**