



For Immediate Release
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Maria Elena Durazo Releases a Statement about the First Anniversary of the Clean Truck Program

(Los Angeles) – *Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Maria Elena Durazo issued the following statement today about the First Anniversary of the Clean Truck Program.*

“One year ago today, the Port of Los Angeles enacted the Clean Truck Program to combat the toxic emissions that have spiked asthma, cancer and mortality rates amongst children, truck drivers, the elderly, dockworkers, and residents near Southern California’s transportation corridors.

“The sustainable business model to cut truck pollution was carefully developed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and LA port and city officials, and has always stood in stark contrast to the band-aid fix taken by neighboring Port of Long Beach.

“As a result of Los Angeles’ leadership, small and large companies alike have seen the economic advantages of environmental stewardship, and have invested over \$500 million in low-emission fleets. Over 60% of the cargo that arrives at our shores is now moved to American stores by professional, hard-working drivers in clean trucks – three years ahead of schedule to meet emission-reduction targets. These are remarkable achievements and prove what a smart, innovative policy LA delivered.

“But we can’t celebrate yet. A backwards-looking industry lobby has sued to block this pollution-fighting plan, creating a murky legal environment that has allowed unscrupulous employers to put the burden for truck leases back on their impoverished immigrant contract drivers. These drivers are living on \$10-11 an hour and cannot afford the proper upkeep and maintenance of these clean-technology vehicles.

“We cannot let greed or industry bullies weaken the environmental and labor standards necessary to clean the air and protect the health of our communities in the long term. Over 10,000 local port drivers, community residents and environmental advocates petitioned in favor of the LA Clean Truck Program, which earned the endorsement of then-Senator Barack Obama, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and the entire Democratic state delegation in Congress.

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"The LA County Federation of Labor stands with over 100 environmental, public health, community and faith organizations in California and around the country – along with the Ports of Los Angeles, Oakland, and New York and New Jersey – to urge Congress to step in and take action so decades-old law does not impede market solutions to address 21st century challenges .

"Local officials must have the tools they need to ensure responsible businesses can profit and grow in a green industry *and* protect public health so working families and taxpayers are no longer forced to foot the bill for clean air. "

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO is the chartered Central Labor Council (CLC) of the AFL-CIO in Los Angeles County and is the second largest in the country, representing over 800,000 workers through over 350 unions. Its mission is to promote a voice for workers so they can remain in the middle class, move themselves out of poverty by joining a union, encourage active participation in the political process by electing pro-union and pro-worker officials and to advance public policies that support workers and their families. As the coordinating center for labor's political activity, the Federation believes that in educating and mobilizing workers to be politically active they can create and sustain healthy communities, and FIGHT FOR GOOD JOBS that REBUILD THE LOS ANGELES MIDDLE CLASS. Visit the Federation at www.launionaflcio.org.

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