



Rusty Hicks
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Ricardo F. Icaza
President

December 12, 2017

SENT VIA E-MAIL & USPS

Councilmember Joe Buscaino, Chair
Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee
councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org

Councilmember Curren Price, Chair
Economic Development Committee
councilmember.price@lacity.org

City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: File No. 17-0725-S1

Dear Councilmembers Buscaino and Price:

Thank you for your strong support for ending wage theft and employee misclassification at the Port of Los Angeles. File No. 17-0725-S1 is a crucial step in stopping the exploitation of port truck drivers and warehouse workers, and giving them the rights and dignity we all deserve.

The illegal employment practices endured by 12,000 port truck drivers, and the poor working conditions faced by tens of thousands of warehouse workers who are the next link in the supply chain, has gone on for far too long. These drivers and warehouse workers have been suffering mistreatment for years and the Ports have done little to address it.

More than a thousand claims for wage theft, 15 strikes in the last four years, and 3,500 drivers involved in lawsuits has yet to spur the change needed for these workers. It is past time for the City of Los Angeles to stand up to greedy corporations that are breaking the law and exploiting workers on City property.

The Port of Los Angeles – in concert with the Port of Long Beach – is the entry point for more than 40 percent of U.S. imports and a major economic engine for the region, generating more than \$10 billion in state and local tax revenues a year. Businesses that receive imports or ship exports through the Port of LA generate about \$12.1 billion and stimulate an additional \$5.5 billion in local industry indirect sales, and employees for businesses that receive imports or ship exports through the Port of Los Angeles spend about \$4.1 billion in the region.

With more than \$100 billion of cargo moving through the Port of Long Beach every year, foreign and domestic shippers and steamship companies spend more than \$5 billion in the region. LA needs good jobs, and with so much money flowing through the ports, there is just no excuse for the City of Los Angeles to allow anyone doing business at the Port of LA to illegally exploit warehouse workers and truck drivers.

On behalf of 800,000 working men and women in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor strongly supports File No. 17-0725-S1 and urges you to demand an expeditious report and immediate action from the City Attorney.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Rusty Hicks
Executive Secretary-Treasurer