



# Teamsters Local Union No. 848

Chartered in 1937

DATE: April 26, 2018

**ERIC TATE**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

TO: The Honorable Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti  
The Honorable Herb Wesson, City Council President  
The Honorable Nury Martinez, Chair Energy, Climate Change & Environmental Justice Committee  
All City Council Members

RE: Support of Council File 18-0054

On behalf of Teamsters Local 848, I am writing in support of the establishment of a Climate Emergency Mobilization Department to oversee efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to plan as well as coordinate critical climate mitigation and adaptation strategies across all city departments.

But as part of a just transition, we want to underscore the importance of protecting workers as clean technologies are introduced. Specifically, port truck drivers should not be forced to pay the cost of new clean trucks at the ports.

The Teamsters worked hard together with the City and our environmental and community partners to create the previous Clean Trucks Program. Unfortunately, after the trucking industry weakened the policy through legal challenges, drivers were forced to pay the costs for the new clean trucks.

The ensuing abuses are well documented. In a Pulitzer finalist investigative series, the USA Today recently exposed the aftermath, describing the situation of the drivers at the LA ports "modern-day indentured servitude." The California Labor Commissioner has issued over 400 decisions finding that port trucking companies owe drivers over \$45 million for wage theft violations including the cost of purchasing and maintaining the mandated clean trucks.

We urge the council to ensure that drivers are not further forced into indentured servitude as part of our sustainability efforts. We also urge that drivers' voices be included as part of the stakeholder process moving forward.

Thank you to Council Member Paul Koretz and the members of the Energy, Climate & Environmental Justice Committee for leading on this and for your ongoing support of port truck drivers and warehouse workers. We urge the full council to support the motion and thank you all as well for your continued support of port truck drivers and warehouse workers.

Sincerely,

Eric Tate  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Teamsters Local 848

*Our Members Are Our Strength. . . Our Children Are Our Future. . . Our Retirees Are Our Foundation*