



Teamsters Local Union No. 848

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ERIC TATE
SECRETARY-TREASURER

December 12, 2017

Councilmember Joe Buscaino, Chair, Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee
Councilmember Curren Price, Chair, Economic Development Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: File No. 17-0725-S1

Dear Councilmembers Buscaino and Price:

As the principal officer of Teamsters Local 848, we represent more than 500 truck drivers at LA's port; but our members' jobs are at risk because their employers compete against hundreds of port trucking companies that continue to flagrantly violate labor laws. As a result, over 12,000 port drivers are exploited every day.

For this, I would like to thank you for your leadership in ending the illegal "independent contractor" business model that has impoverished thousands of hard working truck drivers and undercut the business of those companies that are following local, state, and federal labor laws. These illegal employment practices, 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.

Drivers and warehouse workers, together with labor leaders like myself, have demanded change from the Port of LA's Executive Director and Harbor Commissioners for years – with little action to show for it. Drivers have filed more than a thousand claims for wage theft, struck their employers 15 times in the last four years, and filed thousands of lawsuits. Nevertheless, LA's port has failed to take action.

Meanwhile, the companies that are following the law – drayage companies like Shippers Transport Express, Toll Group, TTSI, and Pacific 9 Transportation – are struggling to compete in a lawless market right under the nose of the Port of Los Angeles.

Teamsters Local 848 strongly supports File No. 17-0725-S1 and urge you to demand an expeditious report and immediate action from the City Attorney.

Thank you in advance,

Eric Tate
Secretary Treasurer
Teamsters Local 848

cc: Randy Cammack, President, Joint Council 42
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