

Resolutions Committee Report

Of The Los Angeles County Party

September 12th, 2017

Resolution in Support of Port Truck Drivers

WHEREAS the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are among the nation's most valuable engines of economic growth and prosperity and are critical to global trade; yet because of misclassification of highly skilled port drivers as "independent contractors" working in an extremely dangerous industry, drivers are forced to toil in sweatshop working conditions for low wages and are denied basic rights and protections that most workers receive such as workers' compensation, disability insurance, Social Security, minimum wage, and health and safety law protections; and

WHEREAS the industry has fought to avoid taking responsibility for providing and maintaining clean trucks that meet diesel truck emission environmental standards, requiring port drivers to lease-to-own their trucks, and as a result, Southern California port drivers continue to be misclassified and their earnings have dropped below minimum wage – sometimes as little as 67 cents per week – because the industry is now deducting expensive truck payments and other operation costs from their paychecks; and

WHEREAS the mayors of Los Angeles and Long Beach have announced a Clean Air Action Plan calling for both ports to be net-zero emissions by 2035, in keeping with both cities' climate goals, including use of a truck rate structure encouraging the use of near-zero and zero-emissions trucks, with the goal of transitioning to a zero-emissions fleet by 2035, and these laudable goals should not come at the expense of port drivers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as a matter of public health and safety and climate justice, the Los Angeles County Democratic Party urges Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia to demand that companies doing business at the ports follow federal and state labor, tax and transportation law, and requiring industry - not port drivers – to bear the costs of further upgrades to their fleets to meet climate goals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be communicated to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Port of Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners, and Port of Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners.

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