

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

As leaders of state transportation departments and advocates of clean air, we strongly support efforts to invest in green infrastructure. We know that reducing harmful emissions from the transportation sector is critical to building a better future, and as the economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, transforming the system that moves the nation's freight is especially critical. Heavy-duty vehicles and equipment used in the freight system are often highly polluting and expose communities to toxic diesel exhaust.

We support President Biden's American Jobs Plan proposal to invest an additional \$17 billion in coastal ports, inland waterways, land ports of entry, and ferries, which are all essential to our nation's freight. In particular, we strongly urge Congress to provide funding for mitigating the cumulative impacts of air pollution on neighborhoods near ports and the inland freight corridors and critical freight facilities that move goods across the country, often proximate to communities of color.

To provide one example, in California, about 30,000 heavy-duty trucks operate at the state's seaports. Communities near the seaports have higher cancer risk and high rates of asthma compared to the rest of California. Across the nation, other communities near major ports face similar challenges.

We know we can do better. Modern and clean ports and freight systems are key to American competitiveness, and investing in that future will create good jobs. Federal funding to convert existing polluting vehicles and equipment to zero-emission and provide associated charging infrastructure would accelerate progress already underway. For example, converting drayage fleets and similar equipment at freight hubs, as well as making corridor investments of zero-emission charging infrastructure, can accelerate the turnover of heavy-duty vehicles, lead to greenhouse gas reductions, and provide especially important air quality benefits for nearby communities. Today, 19 zero-emission truck manufacturers are producing dozens of truck models – and they are in use now. These zero-emission vehicles are providing benefits to nearby communities in the form of reduced emissions and jobs that support a 21st century economy.

Seaports and freight hubs are also developing greener infrastructure and can do even more with federal support.

Many states, including California, Colorado, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington, as well as the District of Columbia, are already making major investments in zero-emission freight equipment and infrastructure. Other states have made progress in reducing their carbon emissions but need strong federal support to transition to zero-emission operations. Sustained federal funding would greatly accelerate the roll-out and with Congress' help, we can build on our successes and increase the number of states making commitments to zero-emission transportation. We ask that federal funding recognize these efforts and structure support programs to focus on states making such commitments.

Sincerely,

California



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Chair, California Air Resources Board



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Secretary, California State
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Colorado



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Executive Director, Colorado
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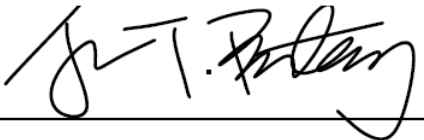
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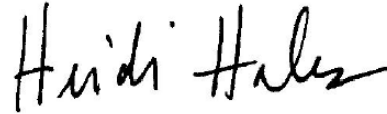
Jade T. Butay
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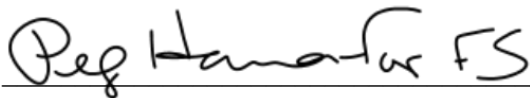
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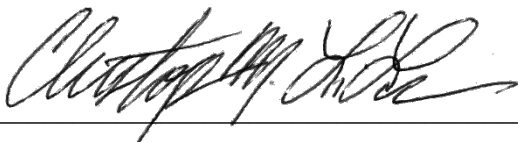


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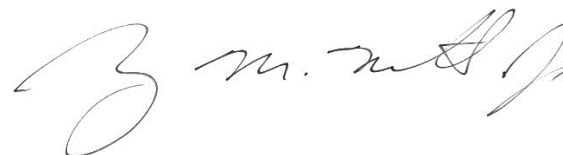
Washington



Laura Watson
Director, Washington State Department
of Ecology

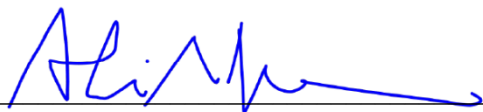


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