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**MAYOR BLOOMBERG AND NEWARK MAYOR BOOKER
JOIN TEAMSTERS PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA TO CALL ON
CONGRESS TO GIVE PORTS THE AUTHORITY TO
IMPLEMENT A CLEAN TRUCKS PROGRAM**

*Teamsters President James P. Hoffa Praises Mayor Bloomberg and Booker's Leadership and
Their Support for Creating a Healthy Environment for Port Workers and Local Residents*

Today, Mayor Bloomberg was joined by Newark Mayor Cory Booker to call on Congress to allow ports throughout the country to implement the Clean Truck Program developed in Los Angeles. This innovative initiative improves the quality of the air in the neighborhoods surrounding ports by requiring trucking companies to adhere to strict environmental and employment standards, so that underpaid workers behind the wheel are not forced to pick up the tab for low-emissions vehicles. The announcement in support of good, green jobs took place at Pier 11 in Brooklyn. The Mayors were joined by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters President James P. Hoffa and a crowd of union members represented by Teamsters Joint Council 16, port drivers who service the Ports of New York and New Jersey, and their environmental and community partners united in the Coalition for Healthy Ports.

The current, outdated port trucking system has yielded dirty air and dead-end jobs that have spiked both public health and poverty statistics to crisis proportions in Southern California as well as the East Coast. So-called "independent" port truck drivers only average \$10 an hour and cannot afford to properly maintain their old, dirty trucks. Residents of port-adjacent communities, like Red Hook, Brooklyn and South Ward neighborhoods in Newark, are suffering from the impact of toxic diesel emissions in the air they breathe.

The LA Clean Truck Program fixes these linked problems by transferring the responsibility for reducing air pollution from low-wage workers who can only afford to own and operate old, dirty rigs to trucking companies that legitimately employ their drivers and invest in and maintain clean, green trucks. These steps are essential to ensuring that the program's goals of meeting

2007 EPA emissions standards by 2012 can be met, as well as to securing that the ports remain sustainable and competitive for the long term. In exchange for compliance, the firms are awarded powerful financial incentives and access to the terminal gates.

A Virginia-based national trucking lobby sought an injunction to block key provisions of the diesel emissions program, tying the hands of other ports from taking aggressive steps. Port officials, mayors, environmentalists, labor, community and faith-based groups around the country have called on Congress to update the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994 (FAAAA) so port officials have the clear authority to solve 21st century challenges.

“As mayors of big cities on both coasts are seeking ways to take care of the environment, our economy, and the working families who depend on both - not one or the other, it’s becoming increasingly clear that the federal laws that governed the last century are not sufficient for local officials to aggressively address the public health impacts facing workers, residents, and taxpayers,” said James P. Hoffa, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. “The Teamsters applaud Mayor Bloomberg and Mayor Booker for working side-by-side to educate Congress about the tools they need to stimulate the economy, spur environmentally-sound future expansion and level the playing field for companies to compete responsibly. Their leadership demonstrates that our nation’s ports need the ability to clean the air, create good, green jobs, and help make port trucking more efficient and profitable again.”

To date, Mayor Bloomberg has been endorsed by 38 labor organizations that represent nearly 700,000 hardworking New Yorkers, including Teamsters Joint Council 16 which represents all of the 110,000 Teamsters in New York City.

“Newark is home to the third largest port in the nation which is a vital engine of our local and regional economy,” said Mayor Booker. “As we enhance the Port and increase trade and economic activity we must develop in a sustainable manner that improves our economy, our environment and social equity. Newark’s residents and port workers disproportionately bear hazards from pollution caused by outdated diesel trucks that transfer cargo shipments. I applaud the Port Authority efforts to enhance air quality such as their program to replace over 600 of the oldest most polluting trucks with newer models, much more needs to be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. I urge Congress to support changes in federal legislation that would enhance the ability of our nation’s ports to effectuate policies to improve air quality and protect public health.”

Mayor Booker became Newark’s 36th Mayor in 2006 after serving as a Newark City Councilman and community activist. Since then, Mayor Booker has worked with Mayor Bloomberg on many initiatives including Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a non-partisan campaign to rid city streets of illegal firearms, and Building America’s Future, a nation-wide initiative to improve and preserve critical infrastructure. In April, Mayor Booker announced his endorsement of Mayor Bloomberg’s re-election, citing the Mayor’s record of turning around the City’s education system, helping stop illegal guns from entering the tri-state area, and his leadership of the city’s economy which is closely tied to Newark’s.

“For too long we’ve been offered a false choice between economic growth and environmental sustainability, said Mayor Bloomberg. “Today, I am calling on our Congress to pass legislation that will empower ports to implement the LA Clean Truck Program across the country. Many of the products that New Yorkers enjoy on a daily basis are offloaded from ships in our local ports by these hardworking men and women here behind me today. They deserve a shot at the middle class, and the residents that live around these ports deserve to breathe air free of toxic fumes. I will work with Cory and Jim to see that more sustainable and healthy alternatives are enacted to make New Yorkers’ air cleaner and safer to breathe.”

Under the Mayor Bloomberg’s leadership, New York is pioneering answers to the problems of environmental injustice and long term sustainability. On Earth Day 2007, the Mayor launched PlaNYC, a master plan for building an environmentally sustainable New York and cutting the city’s greenhouse gas emissions 30% by 2030. Slowing the pace of climate change will require concerted action across the world, but the Mayor, and crucial partners like the Coalition for Healthy Ports, will not wait on others to take the lead. Mayor Bloomberg is implementing 14 initiatives as part of PlaNYC to tackle the air quality problem in New York City, which directly influences Mayor Booker’s residents of Newark as well. For instance, the City is implementing a series of initiatives to increase the use of fuel efficient and environmentally-friendly taxicabs, and implementing new requirements that mandate that the 10,000 black cars that service corporate clients meet fuel efficiency standards. The Mayor is also working on ambitious projects to green our schools, hospitals, and City government vehicles.

Additionally, Mayor Bloomberg is also cutting city greenhouse gas emissions, cleaning our air and creating green jobs through his Greener, Greater Buildings Plan, a comprehensive 6-point plan to make existing large buildings energy efficient through retrofits. The plan will reduce New York City’s greenhouse gas emissions by 5% - the largest single advance towards PlaNYC’s 30% goal. Finally, the Mayor is making sure that underserved neighborhoods with working, middle-class New Yorkers are receiving quality green space and clean air. As part of the MillionTrees program, the City is targeting “Trees for Public Health” neighborhoods to receive high priority restoration services due to their lower than average tree canopy cover and higher than average asthma rates.

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