



Harbor
Trucking
Association

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*****Trucking Association Responds to Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach
Announcement to Clear Cargo *****

Trucking companies are hopeful that the recent announcement may motivate ocean carriers to take a more proactive approach in helping to clear the current backup.

Long Beach, CA- The recent announcement by the Ports of Long Angeles and Long Beach is a “step in a different direction” according to the Harbor Trucking Association (HTA), a not-for-profit association representing drayage carriers doing business at West Coast ports.

HTA leadership is encouraged that the recent announcement by the Ports and the White House will help get more cargo moving but also hopeful that it will result in an emboldened effort to remove empty containers that are taking up chassis capacity.

“While this is another step in a different direction for clearing this cargo backlog, the ports and the White House task force should be commended for digging in and looking at creative ways to get the ocean carriers engaged. We look forward to continued work with all stakeholders.”, observed Matt Schrap, CEO of the HTA.

Schrap added, “However, for our members, the real issue is with the thousands of empty containers sitting atop thousands of chassis strewn throughout our facilities in the American Southwest that we are unable to return back to the harbor.” Schrap went on, “ideally, additional space on dock should allow terminals to receive empties to free up chassis for more import movement off dock.”

Schrap also added that punitive fees may encourage vessel operators and their marine terminal partners to prioritize chassis availability for carrier cargo that is subject to the fee, leaving other cargo without equipment and many empties still stranded in trucking company yards.

“If vessel operators and their MTO partners start prioritizing pooled chassis for movement of their own carrier haulage to avoid the fees, we may see less merchant haulage and more stranded empties.” He went on, “ocean carriers should be encouraged to send sweeper vessels to clear out these empties. More ships are coming fully loaded and this will just eventually result in more empties. These empty containers need to go back to their points of origin or wherever they are needed ASAP because they are clearly not doing any good just sitting in our yards taking up space and chassis.”

The Harbor Trucking Association is a not-for-profit trade association representing intermodal drayage carriers serving America’s west coast ports. The mission of HTA is to advocate, educate and promote strategies with other goods movement stakeholders to decision makers and public officials in order to formulate sound polices that sustain emission reductions, provide a dialogue for intermodal truck efficiency and to return cargo and jobs to America’s west coast ports.

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