



Harbor
Trucking
Association

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*****Trucking Association Responds to Biden's Administration Announcement on 24/7 Operations at Port of Los Angeles*****

Long Beach, CA- HTA members are appreciative of and hopeful for the attention brought to bear by these recent supply chain challenges. However, the announcement yesterday by the Biden administration does not address the core issues that have been plaguing the supply chain here at America's port for years. While steamship lines and their marine terminal partners have been pointing the finger at the trucking industry for not utilizing appointments during this crisis, the underlying causes have continued to compound unchecked. Challenges faced by truckers doing business at the ports stem from productivity and efficiency issues that are not alleviated by merely shifting to 24/7 gate operations.

It should be noted that thousands of empty containers sitting in motor carrier yards on top of chassis are unable to be returned into the port complex because of overly restrictive appointment requirements. For instance, if truckers can't secure an appointment to return an empty container, they can't free up the chassis to move an import off dock, so those appointments go unused. Furthermore, if a trucker cannot count on consistent skilled staffing levels during the second half of the second shift on top of the empty return restrictions, those appointments go unused. This is not an issue of unwillingness to pick up cargo, the entire supply chain wants this cargo moved, it is instead a tangled web of shifting constraints that impede and discourage participation.

If we were to truly want to alleviate this cargo back up, our policy makers would make a concerted effort to understand the nuanced and complex challenges in port and drayage operations to encourage more thoughtful and productive gate hours while simultaneously working to bring additional infrastructure investments into the San Pedro Bay port complex so this type of back up never happens again.

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 policies 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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