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June 13, 2019

Port of Los Angeles Harbor Commission
c/o President Jaime L. Lee
425 South Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Harbor Commissioner Lee,

I write to join my brothers and sisters at the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Locals 13, 63 and 94, and over 40 legislators in expressing concern about the permit approval process for the Coastal Development Permit for APM Terminals.

Approval of this permit would allow cargo workers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to be replaced with automated cargo moving equipment, resulting in a loss of thousands of good paying jobs over the next ten years. A reduction in the workforce would not only hurt impacted workers, but would be detrimental to the local and regional economies of San Pedro, Wilmington, and Long Beach, where local businesses rely on the patronage of port workers.

I respectfully ask that the Harbor Commission take action to stay this permit, and begin the process of a comprehensive study on the economic impact automation will have on the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. I believe a deeper look into the negative impacts of this transition is necessary to protect the community, as well as unionized workers at our ports.

Additionally, I urge you to make every effort to ensure that all environmentally upgraded equipment is zero or near-zero emissions and is operated by a human being. The health, safety and well-being of cargo workers cannot be ignored or swept under the rug.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

cc: Eugene Seroka, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles
Mark Mendoza, President, ILWU Local 13