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SENATOR TONI G. ATKINS
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

March 18, 2019

Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners
425 S. Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Harbor Commissioners:

I am writing to convey my concern regarding a permit request – Level 1 Coastal Development Permit No. 18-25 – that allows APM Terminal (APM) convert to a fully automated terminal.

It has come to my attention that if this automation conversion moves forward in its current form, the impact will likely result in the loss of hundreds of well-paying jobs with little-to-no contingency plan for workers displaced by unmanned automation.

I suggest the Board postpone this permit request. During this postponement, the Board should take the time to further analyze the repercussions of fully automating the ports and the impact it will have on the established workforce relying on these jobs to provide for their families and to pay their bills.

If we are to meet California's ambitious goals related to the port's impact on air quality, automation and equipment upgrades are necessary improvements. However, we must also be wary of using environmental goals and timelines as leverage to eliminate jobs. Workers should be considered as an asset in attaining these goals, not a hindrance.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Toni G. Atkins'.

TONI G. ATKINS
Senate President pro Tempore
39th Senate District

tga:cw