

November 28, 2007

To: The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
From: Members of the West Coast Collaborative Marine Vessel and Ports Sector

Dear Senator Inouye:

We are writing to request your support of H.R. 802, the Marine Pollution Prevention Act. This legislation was passed by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on March 28, 2007. This legislation would authorize the EPA and Coast Guard to issue enforcement regulations for the MARPOL Treaty Annex VI, which was approved by the Senate in 2006.

Implementation of the international treaty amendment is an important first step for the protection of the health of our citizens in coastal regions of the United States (U.S.) and the expansion of international global trade transported by vessels to and from the United States. This treaty amendment has the broad support of regulators, environmental organizations, and the maritime industry.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) negotiations to establish cleaner, global ship standards are at a critical juncture. The U.S. government has proposed amendments to MARPOL Annex VI which have broad national support, including that of the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington as stated in the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health Draft Action Plan. However, the U.S. government's ability to negotiate in the global arena is severely hampered because Congress has failed to pass legislation bringing the current treaty into force in the United States by defining how it will be enforced in U.S. waters. We believe the position of the United States would be significantly strengthened if we complete the ratification of the treaty by submitting the implementing legislation being considered to the President. It is imperative that the Senate act immediately so that the U.S. can take a strong position in the ongoing negotiations and at the March 2008 meeting of the IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee where the U.S. position, as well as competing positions, will be considered for future action.

The individuals and organizations signing this letter are members of the West Coast Collaborative Marine Vessel and Ports Sector Working Group, a public-private partnership organized to reduce diesel emissions. We strongly support an international regulatory solution to reduce emissions from ships that is sufficient to meet the air quality needs of all areas of the United States and Canada. All of us agree that the time to act on reducing the environmental impacts of ships is now.

In conclusion, we strongly support your efforts in completing the crucial work necessary in approving MARPOL Annex VI implementing legislation. We hope you will seize this unique opportunity where industry, environmental organizations, and . . .

January 8, 2008

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regulatory agencies are aligned in moving forward for the common good of the people of the United States. You can find more information regarding the Marine Vessels and Ports Working Group of the West Coast Collaborative at: <http://www.westcoastdiesel.org/wkgrp-marine.htm>.

With deepest respect,

Dennis McLerran, Executive Director
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

Michelle Merritt

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Dana Way, President and CEO
Catalyst Energy Inc.

Richard Stedman, Chair, Board of Directors
Clean Air Northwest

Steve Gerritson, Executive Director
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John Garrett, Sales Manager Emissions
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Port of Tacoma

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Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Syed Sadredin, Executive Director/APCO
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Stuart Clark, Air Quality Program Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology