

Clean trucks and hot air

Long Beach Press Telegram Editorial
October 26, 2009

Is the Port of Long Beach dodging diesel pollution issue? Exactly the opposite.

Posted: 10/26/2009 11:38:48 PM PDT

When the Port of Long Beach made peace with the trucking association last week, it was a victory for clean air. Why, then, did a local environmental group go on the attack?

Simple. The group, which calls itself the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports, is fronting for the Teamsters Union, which wants to make the port trucking businesses easy prey.

Here's their plan. In the name of clean air, the Teamsters want both ports to shut their gates to independent truckers, making it easier to unionize a relatively small number of big trucking firms. Independent operators, like other small businesses, aren't inclined to sign on with the Teamsters.

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