



News from
Office of the Mayor

For Immediate Release

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MAYOR DELLUMS WORKS WITH FEDERAL PARTNERS TO BRING IN MORE FUNDS FOR PORT OF OAKLAND

*Collaboration with Senator Barbara Boxer will Help Promote Trade and Keep Environment
Healthy for Residents*

WASHINGTON D.C. – April 3, 2008 – Following the American Association of Port Authorities’ (AAPA) Annual Spring Conference, Mayor Ron Dellums joined Oakland Port Executive Director Omar Benjamin, and Port commissioners, as they met with key port and transportation officials, including Senator Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Office, the House and Transportation Infrastructure Committee, and the Maritime Administration to discuss maintaining responsible environmental practices, while implementing effective goods movement.

“The importance of cultivating strong and effective partnerships between the city, port and our state and federal legislators during these meetings cannot be understated,” said Mayor Dellums. “Our economic prosperity, the health of our community and the future of our environment is rooted in our ability to design and communicate a clear agenda regarding the air quality initiatives our residents deserve, as well as freight policy and goods movement initiatives that is consistent with the economic benefits we envision.”

The mayor and port staff met with members of Congress and their staff to discuss these issues and brief them on port development. This year, stakeholders are paying special attention to the nationwide and local goods movement as Congress works to begin crafting a transportation reauthorization bill next year, which would authorize multi-year spending for transit, freight, highway, and other mobility needs and projects throughout the nation.

On Tuesday, Mayor Dellums and port staff met with the Senator Barbara Boxer, who is the Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss issues in Oakland. They spoke specifically of the need for Congress to consider adopting a coordinated freight policy that delivers increased economic benefits and improves the air quality situation. This would help to build upon the recognition that the state of California has given to the goods movement

infrastructure and environmental sectors, specifically through Proposition 1B, which authorized \$3.1 billion for the state's goods movement needs.

In her opening statement, during the Transportation Field Briefing in Sacramento last year, Senator Boxer stated: “Forty-five percent of all containerized cargo destined for the continental U.S. passes through California’s ports. While this trade is vital to the economy, it clogs our roads, pollutes our air and water, and creates safety issues. So in addition to finding new dedicated funds for much-needed highway investments, one of my priorities for the next transportation reauthorization bill will be addressing goods movement, clean air, and safety – all of which are critical for California.”

“Senator Boxer will play an integral role in framing this debate and pushing for policies and programs that will help to deliver results for the state's residents. With the potential for the federal government to play a more active role in setting freight policy and supporting goods movement initiatives, both in terms of delivering economic benefits and support for air quality initiatives, the City of Oakland and Port of Oakland are even more vital stakeholders in this debate,” said Director Benjamin. “By leveraging the relationships Mayor Dellums has in Washington, I believe we can secure the resources necessary to achieve our goals.”

Oakland officials also discussed the Port’s recent adoption of a goal of reducing the health risks associated with exposure to diesel emissions by 85 percent by 2020, again highlighting the action being undertaken at the local level that can be supported through increased federal involvement in this area.

Since Mayor Dellums has been in office, he has leveraged his relationships in the nation’s capitol, working with federal legislators, such as Congresswoman Lee and Senator Boxer, to provide more than \$81 million from the Federal government for various Oakland programs and services.

On Wednesday night, the city and port hosted a joint educational reception for members of Congress, staff, and federal agency representatives and other stakeholders that will help showcase the partnership between the city and port on the goods movement issue and provide further opportunities to discuss mutual priorities.

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