



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Senator
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 1402 (Lara) – Labor Contracting: Customer Liability

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Senate Bill 1402 (Lara). On February 20, 2018, the Long Beach City Council voted to support legislation that improves working conditions for port truck drivers. This bill proposes to offer whistleblower protections to port drayage truck drivers who notify the Labor Commissioner of work violations or file a claim or civil action against a customer of port drayage services or the motor carrier employer.

The California Labor Commissioner has received more than 900 complaints regarding misclassification of truckers at the ports and upheld more than 500 claims, awarding millions in fines and restitution. USA Today has published several stories in recent months which detail abuses in the trucking industry and describe the working conditions for truck drivers as indentured servitude. These reports detail drivers who work 20-hour shifts, earn little in weekly wages, and are cut off from being given future hauling trips without cause.

The City of Long Beach recognizes truck drivers have been found to routinely be misclassified as independent contractors and that such a misclassification could result in wage theft, leaving the truck drivers in a cycle of poverty. SB 1402 proposes to amend State law to prevent wage theft and other work violations in the goods movement and trucking industry.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 1402 (Lara).

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach