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***After Conducting an Environmental Justice Tour of Newark's Port & Surrounding Neighborhoods...
Coalition for Healthy Ports Calls on Congressmen Payne, Pallone & Sires
to Act to Reduce Deadly Diesel Pollution in Port Neighborhoods***

End deadly diesel pollution of Newark neighborhoods poisoned by port-related truck traffic was the message delivered today by the Coalition for Healthy Ports (CHP) at a press conference by area Congressmen at the end of their CHP-sponsored tour of Newark's port and adjacent communities. The CHP tour was guided by Kim Gaddy, Environmental Justice Organizer, Clean Water Action; Nicky Sheats, PhD, JD, NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, and Joseph DellaFave, Executive Director of the Ironbound Community Corporation.

Congressmen Donald M. Payne, Jr. (NJ-10), Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06), and Albio Sires (NJ-08) visited the Port of Newark, and the Ironbound and South Ward neighborhoods, all in urgent need of an end to the diesel pollution that has generated disproportionately high rates of asthma, lung cancer, heart disease, stroke and neurological disorders from truck exhaust, waste facilities and port equipment. While the city of Newark recently passed an historic Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impacts Ordinance to begin to tackle pollution burdens through new developments in the city, port operations are largely exempt from these local and state environmental review processes. Critical investments in common sense pollution control technologies and policies like newer fleets of trucks and equipment, ship emissions capture systems and more can be brought to bear to improve the health and well being of the most vulnerable workers and residents in our state.

The Coalition for Healthy Ports (CHP) is a broad coalition of over 40 environmental, labor, faith, community, environmental justice and business organizations that seek to create sustainable ports in New York and New Jersey. Its steering committee includes representatives from area organizations including Clean Water Action, Ironbound Community Corporation, NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, GreenFaith, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

"As a parent of three children with Asthma, like Congressman Payne, I understand the importance of clean air and the reduction of diesel pollution impacting the health of all children in Newark, and surrounding Port Communities, 16,000 trucks enter the Port of NYNJ on a daily basis, thousands of these trucks travel on our neighborhood streets. We can't escape port diesel. It's everywhere - our homes, schools and parks."

- **Kim Gaddy**, Environmental Justice Organizer, Clean Water Action and South Ward, Newark Resident
kgaddy@cleanwater.org cell: 973-420-7925

"We applaud the congressmen today for demanding clean air for port neighborhoods. The Coalition for Healthy Ports (CHP) calls on them to seek desperately needed state, federal and private funds, including Volkswagen settlement money that could be put to a comprehensive suite of readily available port-related solutions - pollution capture systems for ships, electrified cargo handling equipment and vehicles, and reinstated PANYNJ truck ban program. We look forward to the NJ delegation pressing the next administration's EPA to fulfill its existing commitment to port activists around the country - moving all port operations towards zero emissions and a healthier tomorrow for both residents and port workers."

- **Amy Goldsmith**, NJ State Director, Clean Water Action and Chair, Coalition for Healthy Ports
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“The Ironbound lives under the heavy burden of being a port adjacent community and the idea that our children walk to school everyday alongside thousands of trucks that spew deadly diesel is heartbreaking. The ban on older diesel trucks from the ports would've made a visible difference in this community. The Port Authority needs to reinstitute that truck ban to save lives and improve conditions here on the ground.”

- **Joseph Della Fave**, Executive Director, Ironbound Community Corporation
jdellafave@ironboundcc.org cell: 201-232-0631

"The Newark cumulative impacts municipal ordinance is an important step forward in addressing environmental justice and cumulative impacts. However, comprehensive improvements in the environmental quality of environmental justice communities in NJ and elsewhere require state and national environmental justice and cumulative impacts rules or legislation including additional tools to help us fight port related air pollution."

- **Dr. Nicky Sheats, PhD, JD** New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance
newbian8@verizon.net cell: 609-558-4987

"As a faith-based organization, Involvement in the Coalition for Healthy Ports is important to GreenFaith. We continue to see that environmental degradation damages all of God's creation. In this case, pollution is disproportionately impacting those vulnerable communities least responsible for port operations. It is neither morally nor ethically right to ignore what is going on and not take action."

- **Sue Smith**, GreenFaith and Steering Committee Member, Coalition for Healthy Ports
suzesmith@verizon.net Cell: 732-757-7421

"Diesel air pollution harms health in so many ways: respiratory, cardiovascular, neurological, developmental... We have the technology to make trucks and ships cleaner and reduce these harms. All we need is the political will and political leadership to make it happen."

- **Robert Laumbach M.D., M.P.H., C.I.H.**, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Rutgers School of Public Health Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, Center for Environmental Exposure and Disease (CEED) and Member, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI) laumbach@eohsi.rutgers.edu Office: 848-445-6084

“The Teamsters support port drivers in their effort to make a living and in their right to a job with respect and dignity. Every day, over 7,000 hardworking men and women haul our region’s much needed goods from the ports to area warehouses in large shipping containers. These skilled professionals are compensated on average about \$28,000 per year for countless hours of work, which is not enough to buy newer, cleaner trucks. We need a clean truck program puts the costs for cleaning the air on the companies, not on the drivers.”

- **Fred Potter**, Port Division Director, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
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