

An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!

A message from the Port of Oakland Trucker Association

During the week beginning Monday, October 21, truckers will be taking a job action at the Port of Oakland against unfair labor practices.

These truckers are classified as "owner operators" and not employees, so they are not legally allowed to form a union. Additionally, they not only own and operate their own trucks but are responsible for fuel and maintenance costs, which allow the corporations that pay them for their services to offload costs onto them.

These truckers have organized themselves into the Port of Oakland Trucker Association (POTA) in order to press for their demands, which include:

1. Green Emission Fee reimbursement

The truckers are required make upgrades to their trucks to meet new emission standards, but they are expected to pay for this cost out of their own pockets. They are demanding that they be reimbursed by the Port and the corporations that run out of it to pay for this upgrade.

2. A congestion fee for waiting time

Truckers often sit idle, earning no money while they wait for their truck to be unloaded. A small congestion fee would help offset their lost pay and discourage the lengthy idle time. Additionally, **POTA believes the best solution is for the Port to hire more members of ILWU and bring in more transainers** so that trucks can be unloaded in a timely manner while ILWU members can maintain their regular work hours.

3. A pay increase

Pay for truckers has not increased in ten years, while the cost of diesel fuel has more than quadrupled. The truckers are demanding an increase in pay so they can continue to afford to work as a trucker while earning enough to take care of their families.

Port truckers are asking for your solidarity at the Port of Oakland while they fight for better conditions and pay. They may not be allowed to form a union, but they are organizing and are asking for your solidarity.

If you take work at the Port of Oakland this week, please be aware that they will be picketing at various terminals. **They plan to support ILWU in contract negotiations in 2014.** Please stand with them this week. A united labor movement is a strong labor movement!

Which side are you on?