

United States Senate

May 28, 2024

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

I write in support of the applications submitted by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's (Port Authority) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2024 Clean Ports Program (CPP) for the Zero Emission Technology Deployment Competition and the Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition. The Port Authority's \$500M request, Catalyzing Change: Zero Emissions NY-NJ Port Projects for a Greener Future, will implement alternative freight movement and zero-emissions (ZE) options across the marine terminals operated by the Port Authority and its private sector partners in New York and New Jersey.

The proposal establishes sustainable ZE operations at the Port of New York and New Jersey, the largest container port on the East Coast and third largest in the country. An estimated 2,600 pieces of off-road Container Handling Equipment (CHE) or Material Handling Equipment (MHE), such as cranes, forklifts, tractors, and empty container handlers, are currently used at Port Authority terminal facilities. Between 2006 and 2022, fleet turnover to newer hybrid equipment led to the decline of most pollutants; however, greenhouse gas emissions increased by 12 percent during this period due to the reliance of MHE engines on diesel fuel.

The Port Authority's Port Master Plan 2050 commits to curbing its carbon emissions and negative environmental impact of its port operations through sustainable and resilient strategies and related green programming. The Port Authority's Net Zero Roadmap sets a formal commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, in line with the Biden Administration's greenhouse gas emissions targets. Transitioning to ZE charging infrastructure will support the agency's pursuit of its ambitious net zero goals and demonstrate to the market that the technology is available and scalable.

The Catalyzing Change project proposes the following technology measures for deployment at key marine terminals in New York and New Jersey:

- Maher Terminals: adoption of 30 electric ZE forklifts and other MHE vehicles.
- APM Terminals: deployment of vessel shore power infrastructure, adoption of over 193 ZE electric CHE, and electrical infrastructure upgrades to facilitate terminal vehicle electrification.
- Port Liberty New York: adoption of ZE electric cranes, forklifts and related off road CHE.
- Port Liberty Bayonne: adoption of rubber-tire gantry ZE electric cranes.
- CALSTART: administration of the PANYNJ ZE Equipment for Ports Voucher Incentive Program and Green Drayage Accelerator program.

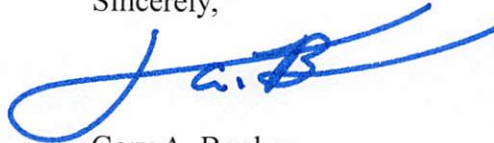
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In addition to the application to implement ZE technologies across the port, the Port Authority is applying to the CPP's Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition. This proposal aims to fund a drayage truck movement study, increased community air monitoring, and the establishment of a Ports Community Advisory Council.

The Port Authority's zero emissions project also aligns with the EPA's environmental justice mission because, if implemented, it stands to improve the health outcomes in near-port disadvantaged communities. According to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately exposed to port-related air pollution. CEJST data relays that 52 percent of census tracts in New York City and 27 percent of tracts in New Jersey are classified as disadvantaged communities.

I ask that you give all due consideration, and I thank you in advance for your attention to these meritorious projects. Should you have any questions, please contact me or my staff at (973) 639-8700.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator