CORY A. BOOKER
NEW JERSEY

SUITE SD-359
DIRKSEN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3007
(202) 224-3224

United States Senate

June 21, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing to express my support for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's application for funding through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant program. The funding will be used to reduce emissions and improve air quality by helping to finance the proposed Regional Truck Replacement Program III.

This program will expedite the replacement of Engine Model Year (EMY) 1994-2006 drayage trucks with trucks powered by 2011 model year or newer certified engines. Replacing these vehicles will help to reduce the emission of pollutants, thereby greatly improving air quality in port adjacent communities. The issue of air quality in and around port communities is of the utmost importance to me. As you know, the childhood asthma rates in my home City of Newark and the area surrounding the port are significantly higher than the national average. We know that a significant contribution to increased rates among children is due to their exposure to the high volume of traffic from nearby highways, industrial sites, and the port.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Should the request for DERA funding be granted, I am confident the Port Authority will put federal dollars to good use in improving public health and the environment through the reduction of harmful air pollutants. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at (973) 639-8700.

Sincerely,

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Cc: Judith Enck, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 2