



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 9581

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing to urge you to prioritize vaccinations for the dock workers of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, known together as the San Pedro Port Complex. As the post-holiday COVID-19 surge of infections continues, to date more than 700 workers have tested positive, leading to the deaths of 12 individuals. The high numbers of infections and the subsequent loss of manpower is putting the operation of these two ports at risk, alongside our economy. These essential workers heroically put their health and lives on the line every day in order to keep commerce flowing in and out of our communities, and we must ensure that they are protected from the COVID-19 virus.

As you know, the operation of these ports is critical to the economy of not only Southern California but the United States as a whole, including our nation's supply chain, millions of jobs and international commerce. In normal times, the San Pedro Port Complex makes up a quarter of our nation's total exports, 40% of containerized imports and processes \$2 billion in goods each day. Slowdowns due to COVID-19 infections have already caused a bottleneck of dozens of ships filled with goods and supplies waiting to be unloaded. Further delays and terminal shutdowns will have a negative impact on our already fragile economy.

As vaccination eligibility opens up to more Californians, I urge you to allow the dock workers that operate this critical infrastructure to receive the COVID-19 vaccination alongside other essential workers. Their continued health is critical to our community's economic wellbeing and is of the utmost national importance.

As the COVID-19 pandemic persists, I will continue to fight for support and aid for California businesses, workers and families. Together we can overcome this great challenge and move our state forward to a brighter future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Y Kim', written in a cursive style.

Young Kim
Member of Congress

Cc: Tomás J. Aragón, MD, Dr. PH, Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
Hilda Solis, Chairwoman, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Holly Mitchell, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Janice Hahn, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors