

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION



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October 13, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the working men and women of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), I am writing to express our profound disappointment in your decision to veto Senate Bill 34. The disagreement we have over this bill represents more than a policy difference. To the ILWU, your decision represents a deliberate choice to turn your back on the thousands of workers who form the backbone of California's ports and who have depended on your leadership to safeguard their livelihoods.

SB 34 had broad, bipartisan support and offered a balanced approach to addressing emissions while safeguarding the good-paying union jobs that keep our ports and economy strong. By rejecting this legislation, your administration has betrayed the working families who have supported your vision for shared prosperity and opportunity.

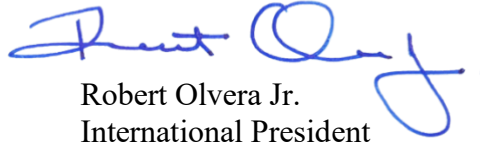
While we appreciate the "local collaboration" between regulators and port authorities as you put it in your October 13, 2025 letter to the California State Senate, the reality is that such collaboration cannot succeed when the very workers who make the ports function are excluded from the deliberations. Calling this veto a defense of cooperation is disingenuous when labor representatives were never invited to join the conversation. Real partnership means listening to the workers who load, unload, and move America's commerce every day, not sidelining them in favor of corporate influences.

The ILWU has always been committed to environmental progress, but we believe that such progress cannot come at the expense of working people. California's port workers have consistently adapted to new technologies and higher environmental standards, often leading the nation in doing so. But your veto sends a clear message that corporate interests and foreign shipping conglomerates carry more weight than those of American workers and their families.

This decision will undoubtedly lead to a loss of jobs and the trust we have placed in your Administration. Our members will not forget where you stood when it mattered most. The ILWU has a long memory, and as you continue to consider your future in public service, we urge you to remember that Labor's support is not a given; it must be earned and maintained through actions, not words.

We remain committed to helping California meet its environmental targets but not at the sacrifice of good middle class jobs. Make no mistake: your veto of SB 34 has severely damaged our confidence to work together to achieve these goals and it will take more than rhetoric to rebuild a partnership in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Olvera Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Olvera Jr.
International President

RO/akj cwa 39521

cc: Gary Herrera, President, ILWU Local 13
Danny Vilicich, President, ILWU Local 63
Danny Miranda, President, ILWU Local 94
Senator Adam Schiff (CA)
Senator Alex Padilla (CA)
Rep. Robert Garcia (CA-42)
Rep. Nanette Barragán (CA-44)