Testimony of Roland Lewis, President and CEO

Hearing on Proposed Res. No. 414-A

Before the Committee on Waterfronts

October 28, 2010

Good afternoon. My name is Roland Lewis and I am President of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, a coalition of 430 groups working together to transform the New York/ New Jersey Harbor and its waterways into a world class resource for work, play, transit and education. I'd like to thank the Committee and especially Chairman Nelson and Councilman Lander for proposing this resolution.

Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) applauds Resolution 414 which calls upon the United States Congress to pass US Representative Jerrold Nadler’s Clean Port Act (H.R. 5967) and update the Federal Motor Carrier statute in the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act thereby affirming the Port Authority’s responsibility to enact comprehensive clean truck programs. The Clean Ports Act of 2010 will give local port authorities clear legal authority to pass progressive programs and allow the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to take a more aggressive and comprehensive approach to fixing the port trucking system on which virtually all goods movement in the region depends.

New York City currently suffers from an epidemic of asthma especially among children. A recent Columbia University study done in conjunction with the Harlem Children’s
Zone found that one in four Harlem children suffers from asthma. Another recent NYU study found a direct correlation between truck traffic and asthma rates. The New York and New Jersey region need a comprehensive clean-air plan modeled after the successful Los Angeles Clean Truck Program.

Overall, MWA believes that increased water transit and clean trucking will play a key role in helping to solve the city’s air quality problems. We very much appreciate the Council for drawing attention to these issues and also for recognizing that waterfront and water-dependent businesses can be a part of the solution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.