



Strengthening the Voice of Business Since 2008



Arnie,

The [Los Angeles Times](#) published an editorial this week criticizing business solutions to the congestion crisis at our ports. The piece slammed thoughtfully crafted suggestions for emergency relief as "opportunistic requests."

### **We have the business community's back**

We convened partners representing all sectors and immediately responded to clear up misconceptions, reiterate our solutions, and educate Times readers about the precedence for swift action during crisis. Special thank you to **Brooke Armour**, Vice President at California Business Roundtable, for helping us craft and vet a response within hours.

### **So what did the editorial allege?**

The Times referenced the [industry letter](#) submitted by 19 business organizations directly impacted by the port crisis and accused business community members of attempting to "roll back" environmental and labor laws for personal gain in a way that will not help resolve the mounting backlog. The editorial states California "cannot trade away progress on larger environmental or labor protections that are essential to building a healthier, more equitable state, for 'solutions' that solve nothing."

### **Nothing could be further from the truth**

BizFed and [Mike Roos](#), President of the Southern California Leadership Council, submitted

the following "Letter To The Editor" in response to the misleading editorial. Plus, many individual groups such as the Orange County Business Council and the California Business Properties Association are submitting their own replies to enforce our collective voice. We're joining forces to present solutions that can help keep things moving. It's time our elected officials do the same.

Submitted October 28, 2021

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# Los Angeles Times

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

California businesses aren't asking for the state to undo any labor or environmental laws. California will still have the most aggressive labor protections and environmental laws, even with the emergency steps we need to bring this crisis under control. We are simply asking the state to acknowledge the emergency situation we have in the goods movement sector and temporarily suspend certain regulations to alleviate the backlog.



After the Northridge earthquake, Governor Pete Wilson suspended environmental laws to expedite the rebuilding of freeways, allowing them to reopen within two months and completing repairs in under a year. Governor Davis suspended environmental laws to address an energy crisis; Governor Newsom recently did the same.

There is precedence for this action in a crisis. With the threat of increased costs, stalled housing construction, and California-grown food sitting at the ports, we literally cannot afford inaction. It's time for the governor and local leaders to treat the goods movement crisis like the emergency it is and allow for temporary flexibility to get goods to the shelves and the parts and components manufacturers need to stop the closings they're experiencing now.

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We hope you find this information valuable – and empowering. If you have any questions, please contact [sarah.wiltfong@bizfed.org](mailto:sarah.wiltfong@bizfed.org).

Keeping you informed,



Tracy Hernandez  
*Founding CEO, BizFed*

Los Angeles County Business Federation

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