**REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE HC**

Vote Yes on Measure HC to bring more accountability to our port.

Right now, the Harbor Commission approves hiring for **ALL** Harbor Department employees, making it the **ONLY** department in the City of Long Beach that requires the governing body to approve the hiring of all employees.

We need an independent, merit-based process for hiring at the Port of Long Beach. **We need Measure HC.**

By adopting Measure HC, we can speed up hiring while also strengthening protections against favoritism, nepotism, cronyism, and unqualified hiring.

Measure HC brings additional accountability measures to the Harbor Commission. It shortens term lengths to four years and increases fines and penalties for violating Harbor Department rules.

Most importantly, Measure HC ensures we fix a broken, outdated hiring process that has left hundreds of good-paying, local jobs at the port unfilled.

Government bureaucracy, red tape, and limited accountability have caused record vacancies and unnecessary hiring delays. With Measure HC, human resources professionals will oversee hiring, just like with every other city department.

The Harbor Commission would maintain its authority to hire the most senior and highest paying positions of Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and the Commission staff.

By voting Yes on Measure HC, our Harbor Commissioners can focus on their core responsibility—to provide independent staff oversight, and set policy that drives regional economic growth, speeds up our national supply chains, and addresses the port's air quality and climate impacts.

Vote Yes for public oversight, transparency, and accountability.

**Vote Yes on Measure HC.**