Dear Michael,

Earlier today, I submitted to the Rules & Legislation Committee a request to schedule the Public Hearing on the health and safety impacts of coal in Oakland with options for the City Council to take action, including whether to adopt a prohibition on the storage, loading, import and export of coal in Oakland.

[Click here for my submission]

In my request, I asked that we take action to specify a date, by the end of June, for the completion of the health and safety hearing on coal, and first reading of possible action by the Council. This issue has dragged on for much longer than was intended, and it is causing harm to Oakland, to our community's reputation, and to vitally needed projects, to have it continue in such uncertainty. Outside funding agencies whom Oakland needs for support, both for the rest of the Army Base project, and for many other vital needs, have started to question Oakland over this issue, and other funds are at risk because of the uncertainty.

Any potential Council action will likely require two readings, and further delay increases risks and problems, including potential disruption to other parts of the Army Base project (which includes many good and useful projects such as those to increase jobs while reducing truck idling and pollution in our community). We should commit now to a date for a first reading before the end of June.

People need to plan ahead for the meeting, both those finalizing reports and compiling data, and people who want to come and participate. Therefore, setting the date now will allow people to complete this process, knowing what the timeline is.

State, Federal and Regional officials and funders have been asking what is Oakland's position on this issue, and are being given no answer -- because until we complete this process and take a vote, there is no Oakland position on the coal proposal.

Please join me in urging that this important issue be scheduled, call and email your Councilmember to let them know that this issue has been delayed long enough!

You can also join me tomorrow morning at 10:45am at the Rules & Legislation Committee, inside City Hall- Council Chambers 3rd floor to speak in support of scheduling this item. To sign-up to speak click here or sign-up at the meeting.

Let us move forward,