The impact of automation on good paying jobs

The Port of Los Angeles is North America’s largest. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union has raised serious concerns over the future of automation at the Port and the impact on its workforce. Recently, the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners approved a permit to introduce driverless electric cargo handlers inside its facilities; this action is expected to result in significant job losses. Technological advancements should not come at the cost of good paying union jobs. The County is in a critical position to carefully analyze any impact at our Ports as it relates to its workforce and local economy.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to send a 5-signature letter to the Mayor of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles City Council to support the efforts of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union to protect local jobs and the local community’s economy.

I, FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer conduct an economic analysis of the local community impact of how automation at the Port will result in local job losses and report back in 90 days. Analysis should focus on the potential loss of local jobs and local businesses as an effect of automation at the Port.