The Honorable Don Perata

Statement on Caltrans Study to Lift the Heavy-Duty Truck Ban on I-580

October 30, 2026

During my tenure as chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Bay Area Transportation, I supported AB 500, a bill that codified into state law a ban on heavy-duty big rig trucks on an 8.7-mile stretch of I-580 that cuts through the main residential areas of Oakland into San Leandro. Codifying the ban into state law stopped repeated attempts to lift it, which would have subjected thousands of residents to diesel pollution, noise and safety hazards. Residents along I-580 were promised that the freeway would remain free of big rigs when it opened in 1963, and it is questionable whether I-580 was ever built to handle big rigs at all.

Caltrans is now reexamining the issue. Their preliminary analysis predicts that, if the ban is lifted, 4,500 big rigs per day would use I-580 with an additional 400 to 500 big rigs on Highway 13. This is totally unacceptable. I also understand from the preliminary findings that corresponding improvements to the health to residents along I-880 would be negligible.

While there are real and legitimate truck traffic issues on I-880, the solution is not to recreate the problem along I-580 which has twice as many residents as I-880, numerous hospitals and dozens of schools along the corridor.

I supported permanently keeping I-580 free of big rigs in 1999, and I reiterate my support now. I urge our elected officials to honor the commitment made to the Oakland community, and to join me in upholding the ban.

Sincerely,

Don Perata
(Ret.) California State Senator