

Enrique Robles
07-7-7

Mr. Enrique Robles, Varsity Basketball Coach,
And teacher at Garfield High School

Our school is like a lot of inner city high schools across the country. Garfield High has been here since 1925. It serves a community of about 100,000, with a student body of almost 5000 mostly lower-income minority students. Nothing comes easy in our community. We work hard for what we have and have accomplished.

When we put our minds to it, we can accomplish great things. When the time comes – we can stand and deliver. From pure determination and sweat, our school gained an international reputation by building an advanced math program from the streets up – and put those who said it couldn't be done in their place. We showed the world what we could do when we did the right thing.

This is why we are here today – because we have to breathe the worst air pollution in the country. We are surrounded by industry, three freeways and a network of railroad lines that dump tons of pollution into our lives every day. The asthma; the illness; the death; we are all too familiar with.

But today, what we see is hope. Today we recognize a kindred spirit who has stood up and delivered a clean air plan that will break this curse of having to breathe this poison in our air.

Madame Chair, thank you for having the courage and vision to take this step.

We trust you'll remember us when the decisions get tough - because ultimately your decisions impact our lives on a very personal basis.

Thank you.