



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 24, 2004

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Leavitt:




On February 2, 2004, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) submitted a request for a waiver of the 2 percent oxygenate mandate for California's gasoline. We urge your swift approval of this request.

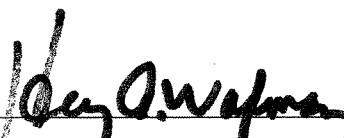
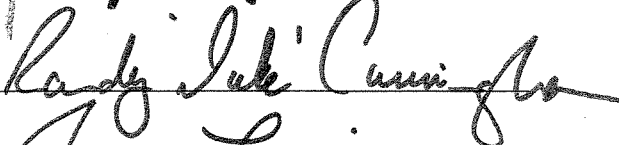
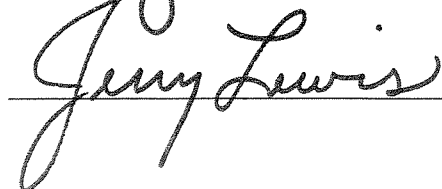
A Federal waiver is crucial to California's ability to improve its ground water and air quality through the use of reformulated gasoline. As the EPA's Blue Ribbon Panel on Oxygenate in Gasoline reported on September 15, 1999, "within California, lifting the oxygenate requirement will result in greater flexibility to maintain and enhance emission reductions, particularly as California pursues new formulation requirements for gasoline."

As a former governor, you recognize the importance of allowing states the flexibility to meet Federal policy goals. EPA's approval of California's waiver request will not only help California protect the environment, but will also allow California refiners the flexibility to produce more cost-effective gasoline formulations, saving our consumers money at the pump.

California has long led the nation in efforts to reduce air pollution and would like to continue to do so. We look forward to your prompt response, and the provision of a schedule for your agency's decision on the waiver.

Sincerely,

John T. Doherty
Kelli Calvert

Ed Royce

Jan Hammer

Tom Lantos

Elton Gallegly

Louise Roybal-Allard
Cynthia Hunt

Maxine Waters

Lynn Woolsey

Bud Shuster

Cal Dooley

Sam Farr

Janita Hillender McDonald

Lou Capps

Gary Richardson

Derry Nemes

David J. Bonior

Richard Pombo

Robert J. Matsumi

Nancy Pelosi

Edward J. "Buck" McKeon

David L. Bonior

Ellen O'Donoghue

Linda J. Sanchez

Laetitia Vanhook

Grace F. Napolitano

Michael M. Honda

Barbara Rice

Zac Yarn

Michelle Shampson

Tim L.

Joe Bacon

May Dow

Hilda L. Solis

Wally Hergen

Karen Sam

Diane E. Watson

Alte Stark

Anna Eshoo

Alan B. Delfy

D. Calif

g2b

Boyd Miller