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October 9, 2012

The Honorable Jon Leibowitz
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairman Leibowitz,

I write in support of Senator Dianne Feinstein's call for decisive action from the Federal Trade Commission to protect California consumers from malicious trading schemes in the California gasoline market.

The circumstances of the recent spike in gas prices in California raise serious questions. Californians are, unfortunately, no strangers to manipulated energy prices. In this time of economic vulnerability, artificially raised gas prices are intolerable. At some gas stations in the Los Angeles area, the price of gas has reached $5 a gallon. Californians deserve to know whether the record-breaking gas prices they are being made to suffer at the pump are due to market forces or greed.

As such, I request that the Federal Trade commission immediately launch an investigation into price spikes in Southern California, begin collecting relevant data on California's gasoline markets, and establish a permanent market monitoring team.

Californians pay enough at the pump without any underhandedness driving up the price. They deserve a strong watchdog looking out for them.

Sincerely,

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress