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July 13, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE

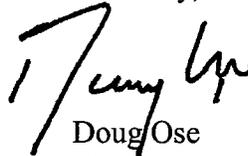
The Honorable Jeffrey R. Holmstead
Assistant Administrator for Air & Radiation
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Holmstead:

This letter follows up on the July 7, 2004 hearing of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, entitled "Driving Down the Cost of Filling Up." Please respond to the enclosed followup questions for the record.

Please hand-deliver the agency's response to the Subcommittee majority staff in B-377 and the minority staff in B-350A Rayburn House Office Building not later than July 28, 2004. If you have any questions about this request, please call Subcommittee Staff Director Barbara Kahlow on 226-3058.

Sincerely,



Doug Ose
Chairman

Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural
Resources and Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

cc The Honorable Tom Davis
The Honorable John Tierney

- Q1. As mentioned in your written testimony and during the hearing, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has granted six refineries hardship waivers, which allow them additional time or flexibility to meet the new Tier 2 sulfur standards.
- a. Where are these six refineries located?
 - b. What markets do they serve?
 - c. How long did EPA consider these waiver requests before granting them?
- Q2. During the hearing, you indicated that determining the effect of an oxygen content waiver on air quality in California was very complex, and that the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 set very stringent guidelines for EPA to follow when considering such a waiver. You also indicated that an outside stakeholder group recently submitted additional data for EPA to consider.
- a. What additional information or analysis does EPA need to complete before granting or denying California's request?
 - b. When do you expect to make a decision on this request?
 - c. Which stakeholder group submitted additional information? Please provide the Subcommittee a copy of the submission. Does this group stand to benefit financially if California's waiver request is delayed or denied?