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,

Chris Cox

Henry A. Waxman

Dan Rohrabacher

Randy "Duke" Cunningham

Bill Thomas

Jerry Lewis

John T. Doolittle
Ken Calvert
Ed Royce
Jane Harman
Tom Lantos
Elton Gallegly
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Duncan Hunter
Maxine Waters
Lynn Woolsey
Brad Sherman
Cal Dooley
Sam Farr
Juanita Millender-McDonald
Lois Capps

George Radanovich
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Dennis Dreier
Richard Pombo
Robert T. Matsui
Nancy Pelosi
Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Howard L. Berman
Ellen Tauscher
Linda T. Sánchez
Susan Davis
Loretta Sanchez
Grace F. Napolitano
Michael M. Honda

Barbara Lee

Zoe Lofgren

Mike Thompson

Tony Lu

Joe Baca

Mary Bono

Hilda L Solis

Wally Herger

Lauren Bacon

Diane E. Watson

Pete Stark

Anna Eshoo

Alan B Schiff

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George Miller