Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

We are writing you regarding two major regulations EPA will soon propose that could have significant impacts on the nation's fuel manufacturers and the economy as a whole: Tier 3 fuel regulations and the Refinery Sector Rulemaking. We believe that reforms of this scope require a thorough analysis of potential long term implications on all affected industries before moving forward.

Tier 3 would place stringent requirements on fuel manufacturers to reduce sulfur and vapor pressure. Our understanding is that EPA intends to propose this rule early next year and issue a final rule in 2012. Especially during this time of economic uncertainty, we have concerns about the effects this rule might have on the fuel manufacturing and other industries, the price of gas at the pump, and domestic fuel supplies.

We also understand that EPA is moving forward on the Refinery Sector Rulemaking in December of 2011. This rulemaking is perhaps the most comprehensive and complex mix of new mandates and standards ever developed for the refinery sector. In light of the potential impact of rules like these, we suggest that the issuance of an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking would allow affected industries a better opportunity to provide feedback and give EPA more time to analyze the data submitted by those industries in advance of rulemaking.

With any rules, we expect a thorough analysis of the science, as well as costs and benefits to the general public and affected industries before proceeding. We believe both federal and state regulators should be held to that standard. We urge EPA to coordinate with states to pursue a rigorous science-based rulemaking process that minimizes the unnecessary, negative consequences for affected industries.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Ed Whitfield

Representative Ed Whitfield

John Barrow

Representative John Barrow

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Representative Rodney Alexander

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