

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 29, 2012

President Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to strongly urge you to take an important step to improve human health and stimulate job creation by proposing the so-called Tier 3 emission and fuel standards in 2012 and adopting them promptly thereafter.

The health benefits associated with the Tier 3 proposal are well established. Tier 3 will substantially reduce harmful pollutants that are responsible for health related ailments such as heart attacks, premature death, asthma attacks and other chronic lung diseases. A recent study by Navigant Economics stated that these health benefits have an estimated value of \$5-\$6 billion annually by 2020 and \$10-\$11 billion annually by 2030.

In addition to these health benefits, Tier 3 will also result in significant economic benefits. Navigant's study estimated that Tier 3 will create over 24,000 new jobs over three years for equipment installation at the nation's refineries. Another 5,300 jobs will be created by the operation and maintenance of this new equipment. These jobs will be the direct outcome of refining industry investments in new plants and equipment to reduce the sulfur content of gasoline and to make American refineries more competitive.

Furthermore, a study sponsored by the oil industry has concluded that Tier 3 will not result in refinery closures. As no refineries are expected to close because of Tier 3, its adoption will not cost jobs. On the contrary, it will create jobs.

Implementation of Tier 3 will also capture the economic benefit associated with harmonized emission standards and a uniform low sulfur fuel standard nationwide. As a national program, Tier 3 will enable auto makers and their suppliers to manufacture to scale and minimize the cost of emissions reduction equipment installed in new vehicles.

Another important benefit of Tier 3 is that it will yield the most cost effective means for the states to achieve cleaner, healthier air and meet their National Ambient Air Quality Standards ("NAAQS") attainment goals as required under the Clean Air Act. This is why the Bush Administration assumed the timely implementation of Tier 3 when it set the ozone NAAQS in 2008. According to a study by the National Association of Clean Air Agencies ("NACAA"), 10-ppm sulfur gasoline will result in a reduction of over 260,000 tons of NOx emissions overnight. We know of no other single strategy for NOx that will achieve as significant, timely, and cost effective emissions reductions.

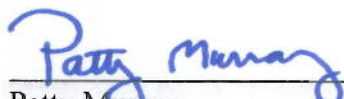
Opponents of Tier 3 have claimed that the regulation will result in increased gas prices at the pump. Stated simply, Navigant's study defies this claim. The study showed that reducing the sulfur content of gasoline under Tier 3 will increase the cost of refining by only one cent per gallon. The study also proved that this cost increase to refiners will not be passed on to consumers in the form of higher gas prices.

In closing, it is clear that the numerous health and economic benefits of Tier 3 far outweigh any costs to refineries in making the investment to reduce sulfur. We hope that in light of these compelling considerations, you will move forward with proposing Tier 3.

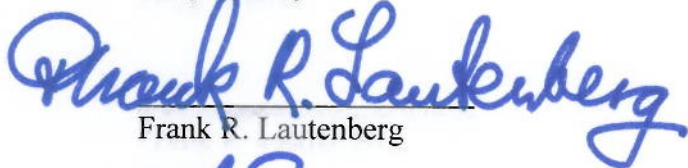
Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Patty Murray



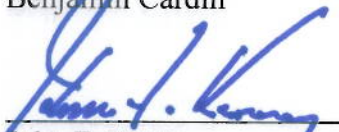
Frank R. Lautenberg



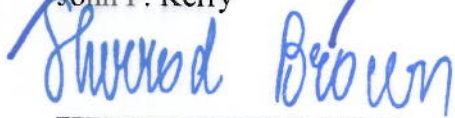
Sheldon Whitehouse



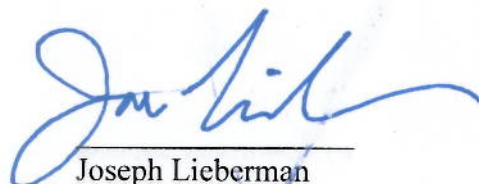
Benjamin Cardin



John F. Kerry



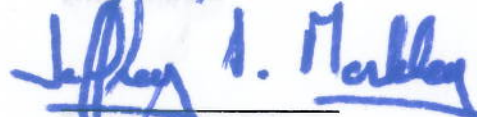
Sherrod Brown



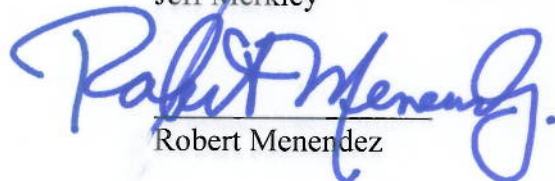
Joseph Lieberman



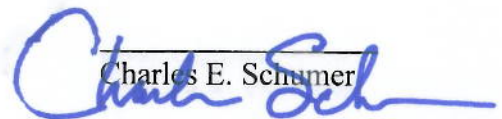
Dick Durbin



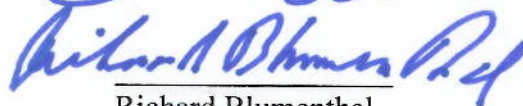
Jeff Merkley



Robert Menendez



Charles E. Schumer



Richard Blumenthal