



July 21, 2010

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548

Dear General Abbott,

Thank you for fighting to uphold Texas' constitutional rights and strong environmental track record by filing a legal challenge against the Environment Protection Agency's (EPA) unilateral rejection of Texas' "qualified facilities" program for issuing permits to refineries and other industrial facilities in Texas.

The EPA's actions are willfully ignorant of the environmental gains we have made in Texas. As a result of our efforts in Texas, our state now ranks as one of the cleanest states in the nation for emissions of key pollutants. Emissions of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide in Texas have decreased significantly since 1985. There is no evidence that Texas' permitting process materially violates the Clean Air Act. In fact, with a 22 percent reduction in ozone and a 46 percent reduction in NOX emissions since 2000, Texas' approach to reducing harmful emissions is demonstrably effective.

Given these facts, it seems as though the actions taken by the EPA intended to punish a state that has successfully reduced its harmful air emissions while maintaining a strong and growing economy.

We strongly agree with your statement that:

By rejecting Texas' qualified facilities program, the EPA has unilaterally declared that program is not in compliance with federal law. The EPA's decision not only imposes significant uncertainty on entities that employ thousands of Texans, but it threatens the livelihood of their employees – who depend upon those facilities for their jobs.

Texas is shouldering a huge share of the burden of providing bulk refined materials for the rest of the country's industry. For example, 60 percent of the petrochemicals produced in the United States are produced in Texas and 30 percent of U.S. gasoline and diesel refining occurs in Texas. This heavy industry is essential for the country: Texas should not be penalized for shouldering this load.

You have our full support as you fight to uphold the sovereignty and prerogatives of Texas against the latest and most egregious intrusion by the federal government. Thank you for your service and leadership.

Sincerely,



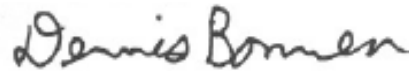
State Representative Wayne Christian
House District 9, Center



State Senator Brian Birdwell
Senate District 22, Granbury



State Representative Linda Harper-Brown
House District 105, Irving



State Representative Dennis Bonnen
House District 25, Angleton



State Representative Ken Paxton
House District 70, McKinney



State Representative Betty Brown
House District 4, Terrell



State Representative Leo Berman
House District 6, Tyler



State Representative Angie Chen Button
House District 112, Garland



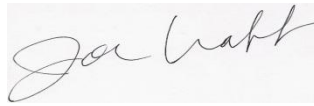
State Representative Dan Flynn
House District 2, Van



State Representative Bill Callegari
House District 132, Katy



State Representative Phil King
House District 61, Weatherford



State Representative Joe Crabb
House District 127, Atascocita



State Representative Jodie Laubenberg
House District 89, Parker



State Representative Myra Crownover
House District 64, Denton



State Representative Geanie Morrison
House District 30, Victoria



State Representative Allen Fletcher
House District 130, Tomball



State Representative Patricia Harless
House District 126, Spring



State Representative Charlie Howard
House District 26, Sugar Land



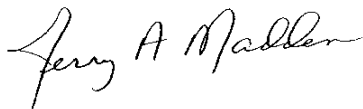
State Representative Jim Jackson
House District 115, Carrollton



State Representative Tim Kleinschmidt
House District 17, Lexington



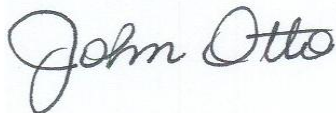
State Representative Ken Legler
House District 144, Pasadena



State Representative Jerry Madden
House District 67, Richardson



State Representative Rob Orr
House District 58, Burleson



State Representative John Otto
House District 18, Dayton



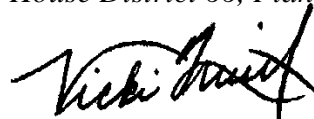
State Senator Dan Patrick
Senate District 7, Houston



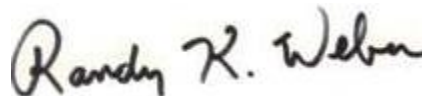
State Representative Ralph Sheffield
House District 55, Temple



State Representative Van Taylor
House District 66, Plano



State Representative Vicki Truitt
House District 98, Keller



State Representative Randy Weber
House District 29, Pearland



State Representative Beverly Woolley
House District 136, Houston



State Representative John Zerwas, M.D.
House District 28, Richmond