



Sacramento Groundwater Authority
*Managing Groundwater Resources
 in Northern Sacramento County*

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Edward D. Winkler
 Executive Director

April 4, 2005

California-American
 Water Company

Carmichael
 Water District

Citrus Heights
 Water District

City of Citrus Heights

City of Folsom

City of Sacramento

County of Sacramento

Del Paso Manor
 Water District

Fair Oaks Water District

Natomas Central Mutual
 Water Company

Orange Vale
 Water Company

Linda / Elverta
 Community Water
 District

Sacramento Suburban
 Water District

San Juan
 Water District

Southern California
 Water Company

Agricultural and
 Self-Supplied
 Representative

VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Mary Bono
 Energy and Natural Resources Committee
 House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-2961 fax

The Honorable George Radanovich
 Energy and Natural Resources Committee
 House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-3402 fax

Re: URGENT – Oppose Liability Exemption for MTBE and Ethanol in Energy Bill

Dear Representatives Bono and Radanovich:

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) urges your opposition to energy bill provisions which exempt fuels manufacturers from liability for groundwater contamination by Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether (MTBE) and ethanol.

SGA is a joint powers authority created to collectively manage the Sacramento region's north area groundwater basin. Member agencies are responsible for providing high quality drinking water to more than a half-million residents in the greater Sacramento region.

MTBE was blended into gasoline without consideration of its impact on groundwater, which we now know to have fouled drinking water in several areas in California and throughout the country. The "safe harbor" language exempts producers from responsibility for these cases, leaving little or no incentive for polluters to clean up water supplies contaminated by these products. Replacing MTBE with ethanol and providing a "safe harbor" such as this will compound these costly mistakes and place a new burden on local water agencies and water customers to clean up pollution they had no role in creating.

The members of SGA and water districts across California face the very real prospect of losing scarce water supplies due to contamination by these additives. If the parties responsible for this contamination are granted a special exemption in law, the result will be greatly reduced water quantity at greatly increased prices.

The SGA opposes the "safe harbor" provision for MTBE and ethanol and asks that you intervene to oppose it as the energy bill moves through the committee process.

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Thank you for your consideration. We are hopeful that the energy bill can be improved to safeguard water supplies while benefiting the nation's energy supply.

Sincerely,



Edward D. Winkler
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein (fax 202.228.3954)
The Honorable Barbara Boxer (fax 415.956.6701)
The Honorable John Doolittle (fax 202.225.5444)
The Honorable Doris Matsui (fax 202.225.0566)
The Honorable Dan Lungren (fax 202.226.1298)
SGA Board of Directors
Association of California Water Agencies (fax 202.434.4763)