



March 23, 2020

Susan Bodine  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance, Air Enforcement Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Waiver Request under Clean Air Act Section 211(c)(4)(C)

Dear Administrator Bodine,

On behalf of our national associations,<sup>1</sup> representing the convenience and fuel retailing industry, we respectfully request the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant a waiver of the federal Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) requirements that change on May 1, 2020 at the terminal level and June 1, 2020 at the retail level due to the rapid changes in gasoline demand resulting from the COVID-19 health pandemic. Various emergency declarations around the country requiring individuals to limit travel, for both work and pleasure, and gasoline demand is falling dramatically. This creates a unique challenge for fuel retailers as the industry approaches the May 1, 2020, transition date.

With significant amounts of winter grade fuel remaining in tanks, terminals, and pipelines, and the inability to sell it after the May 1, 2020 transition date, terminal operators will have limited capacity to take loads of summer grade fuel. If terminal operators cannot take the summer grade fuel, the pipelines are expected to back up. Eventually, refineries will be forced to shut down production. These problems may be exacerbated for pipelines that ship both gasoline and diesel

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<sup>1</sup> NACS represents the convenience industry, which has more than 152,720 stores in the United States (121,998 of which sell motor fuel) and employs approximately 2.4 million workers. NATSO currently represents more than 3,000 travel plazas and truck stops nationwide, comprised of both national chains and small, independent locations. PMAA member associations represent wholesalers and retailers of gasoline, diesel, heating oil, lubricants and renewable fuels. Additionally, these companies supply motor fuels to 40,000 independently owned retail outlets. SIGMA is the national trade association representing the most successful, progressive, and innovative fuel marketers and chain retailers in the United States and represents a diverse membership of approximately 260 independent chain retailers and marketers of motor fuel. Collectively, the associations' members supply more than 90 percent of the motor fuel in the United States.

through the same pipes as backups in gasoline may block diesel fuel (which is not seeing the same drop in demand) from reaching the market. While the drop in gasoline demand will force changes throughout the supply chain, this particular issue can be avoided with a waiver for a fixed, clear period of time to allow marketers to sell through the winter grade fuel on hand today.

EPA, with the concurrence of the Department of Energy, has the statutory authority to issue a waiver under Clean Air Act Section 211(c)(4)(C) to alleviate these concerns. Our associations urge EPA to grant this request quickly to allow for certainty to return to the market.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to address this ongoing health crisis.

Sincerely,

National Association of Convenience Stores  
National Association of Truckstop Operators  
Petroleum Marketers Association of America  
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America