

REAP

Renewable Energy Action Project

April 1, 2002

Sir John Browne
Corporate headquarters
BP, Britannic House
1 Finsbury Circus
London EC2M 7BA
United Kingdom

RE: BP's Support of Ongoing MTBE Use

Dear Sir John Browne,

We are writing to express our disappointment that BP is publicly supporting the ongoing use of MTBE in California.

In 1999, as part of its merger with ARCO, BP pledged to eliminate MTBE one year before Governor Davis' 2003 deadline. California hoped that BP's stance would set the industry timetable for the elimination of a dangerous and unnecessary gasoline additive. Three years later, BP has not followed through on its pledge. In the wake of Davis' one-year deadline extension, several major oil companies including Shell, ChevronTexaco and Phillips have expressed interest in eliminating MTBE this year. In stark contrast to your competitors, a BP spokesperson praised the Governor's decision.

We believe that BP has a unique obligation to lead California away from MTBE. ARCO was the founder and largest producer of MTBE. BP's merger was partially predicated on a pledge to eliminate MTBE early. Going back on this pledge, and now supporting MTBE use, calls into question BP's entire campaign to present itself as a socially and environmentally responsible company.

We have heard the claims about market uncertainty and unsuccessful efforts to eliminate the oxygen standard. But these conditions did not prevent other refiners from replacing the chemical, or supporting efforts to do so over the next year. BP's business ethics documents declare a commitment to "demonstrating respect for the natural environment and work[ing] towards our goals of ... no harm to people and no damage to the environment." Clearly, ongoing and unnecessary MTBE use is in gross violation of these ethical standards.

As the largest MTBE user and gasoline provider in the state, BP's position could have a cascading effect on the rest of the market. Kinder Morgan, the major pipeline and terminal gasoline transporter in California, has asked BP and other refiners to disclose

their interest in blending ethanol as a replacement for MTBE. With BP's commitment to ethanol, Kinder Morgan will almost certainly make the necessary investments to accommodate its largest California client. If BP chooses not to replace MTBE, other refiners may do the same.

Our coalition is considering an aggressive and targeted campaign to inform Californians which companies are supporting MTBE and where to buy gasoline. We hope to have BP's response before launching this effort.

Sincerely,

Brooke Coleman
Director
Renewable Energy Action Project (REAP)
415.336.2321

Russell Long, Ph.D
Executive Director
Bluewater Network
415.788.3666 ext. 110

And the following signatories:

Climate Solutions, Bluewater Network, Environmental & Energy Study Institute, Californians Against Waste, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Kinergy Resources, West Coast People's Energy Co-op, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy, California Renewable Fuels Partnership, Masada Resource Group, The Brower Fund, General Biomass Company, Oregon Environmental Council, Ohio Biomass Energy Program, California Farmers Union, The Minnesota Project, Plumas Corporation, Oceanic Resource Foundation, County of Ventura Public Works Department, Tides Foundation, Illinois Student Environmental Network (ISEN), Waterkeeper Alliance, Save Our Shores, International Marine Mammal Project, Clean Energy Now (Greenpeace), Kettle Range Conservation Group, Cook Inlet Keeper, New River Foundation, Earth Island Journal, Waste Action Project, Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Mangrove Action Project, Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, Northwoods Conservation Association