

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Paul Cramer
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Docket No 23-OIR-03 Letter

Attached is a letter for Docket No. 23-OIR-03

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Star Milling Co.®

Member of California Grain & Feed Dealers Assn.

23901 Water Street, P.O. Box 1987, Perris, CA 92570

Phone (951) 657-3143

Fax (951) 943-2400

www.starmilling.com

[May 2nd, 2024]

[Via Online Submission](#)

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
Docket No. 23-OIR-03
715 P Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814
docket@energy.ca.gov

Re: Comment on SBX1-2 Maximum Gross Gasoline Refining Margin and Penalty Workshop

My name is Paul Cramer and I serve as the Vice President of Star Milling Company, a family business based in Perris (Riverside County) with 90 employees that, for the past 54 years, has manufactured and distributed domestic, farm and industrial animal food for families and businesses in California, the nation and world.

Affordable fuel is critical to our businesses, employees and customers. We hope the CEC will focus on rules that will actually help lower California's high gas prices. California has some of the highest gas prices of this nation. While I know there are various reasons for these high gas prices, I believe that taxes are a large reason they are so high.

California's taxes on gasoline are a robbery. Californians have to pay numerous taxes on their gasoline, including local and state sales taxes, excise taxes and certain environmental fees. California has some of the highest sales tax burdens compared to other states. Additionally, California's tax on gasoline is 57.9 cents- the highest in the nation. Taken all together, these tax rates drive up our gas prices, and ultimately force us to raise prices on inventory in all of our stores – hurting both our small businesses and consumers, but also our local community that relies on our tax dollars to fund important public services. In fact, California pumps out the highest state gas tax rate in the nation. Over a dollar of our gas prices can be attributed to taxes.

I urge the CEC to analyze and truly consider the impact of taxes on our gasoline prices. California businesses and individuals – from seniors to working families - cannot keep up with these taxes and resulting high prices. I believe addressing these high taxes will help alleviate the burden of high gas prices, as opposed to more regulation.

Regards,



Paul Cramer
Vice President