

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	15-PMAC-01
Project Title:	Petroleum Market Advisory Committee
TN #:	211136
Document Title:	Help Protect Consumers!
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Richard Martinez
Organization:	Richard Martinez
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	4/18/2016 10:55:34 PM
Docketed Date:	4/19/2016

Dear Committee Members,

I appreciate your hard work in helping to ensure fairness/transparency in California gasoline prices. I ask that you please continue to insist on more transparency and perhaps even relying on “common sense” approaches to identifying problems, please step away from the data and look at what is happening out in the market, and ask whether something seems amiss?

- Please demand that refiners have an inventory control plan in place that continuously adjusts to meet the changing environment
- In today’s data-driven environment, how is it possible that we still rely on:
 - Self-reporting of prices by industry players (surely the LIBOR scandal should have taught us all a lesson?) via OPIS surveys, etc.?
 - Reporting of transactions by industry players that make up the cesspool? (we need look no further than Enron’s blatant thievery that resulted in rolling blackouts in California all thanks to market players that wanted to line their pockets first)
- The state should have a very vested interest in ensuring that prices are fairly set, they are effectively a tax on citizens and any additional dollar paid in gasoline translates directly into less money spent throughout the rest of the economy affecting jobs/tax revenue
- While I generally state that we must always remain environmentally conscious, I’m really questioning whether California should begin phasing out the reformulated gasoline program in the face of:
 - Refiners continuing to use this as an excuse/crutch to further pad their margins via increased prices
 - Increasing vehicle efficiency and adaptation of electric cars (i.e., risk to the environment may be offset by natural efficiency/technological progression making the reformulated gasoline program moot)

I think we all agree that there is way too much money at stake to avoid the temptation of gaming/skirting rules to reap a benefit. It is human nature and I ask that you please remain steadfast/diligent in demanding that the players not only abide by the rules but by the spirit of the rules (its very strange to me that as parents/neighbors/citizens we seem to agree on ethics and how we would guide our young children to behave, yet we somehow accept that as adults, we can all behave differently in the business world simply because we may not be breaking any “laws” even as we pillage our very neighbors/family in the process). Thank you again for all that you do.

Sincerely,
Richard Martinez