

Dear:

I am writing to state my great distress regarding recent rulings by the California State Water Board regarding the storage of Biodiesel In Underground Storage Tanks (UST).

I am an environmentally oriented California resident and for the past 9 years have been driving a vehicle powered by 100% biodiesel. I made the environmental choice in transportation to reduce my emissions, clean the environment and to eliminate my reliance on non-sustainable petroleum fuels.

The Water Board ruling to outlaw the storage of any blend of biodiesel over B20 has caused the local stations providing B99.9 to close. Not only have I lost my access to this clean burning fuel, thousands of other California drivers have also lost access to biodiesel. This includes individual users, school bus fleets, commercial operations and even municipal applications.

Although the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for Biodiesel stated that "this product contains no hazardous materials", the staff at the water board decided that they would declare any biodiesel stored in underground tanks to be a hazardous material, because "it could be mixed with hazardous materials".

The irony of the process is that the water board has now allowed for the underground storage of a B-5 blend of 5% biodiesel and 95% petroleum diesel due to recent changes in the ASTM specifications for petroleum diesel. In addition they are just now issuing rules to allow a variance for in limited situations for the storage of biodiesel blend B20 (20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel).

Yet the board chair strongly is resisting any allowance of purer blends of biodiesel, specifically blends containing less than 0.01% petroleum and even pure biodiesel. It makes no sense to allow the underground storage of blends containing up to 95% petroleum and to condemn the storage of pure or virtually pure non-hazardous biodiesel.

I am writing you, as my elected representative to request that you take action to level the playing field. Make provisions to allow for the storage B99.9 and B100 biodiesel in underground tanks with the same variance as B20. This action will allow thousands of California biodiesel consumers to access the fuel, which will help to clean California's air, shrink our carbon footprint and reduce our dependence on non-sustainable fuel resources.

Thank You,
Your Constituent