

(On company letterhead)

The Honorable (first & last name)
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **URGENT NEED** for Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program Legislation & Rule Waivers.

Dear (Senator) (last):

AB 1188 (Ruskin) is currently in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. This bill needs to be passed before the end of this session to avoid a calamity of small business failures and the loss of essential "green" employment in this state.

Due to no fault of their own, hundreds of claimants and consultants working on UST remediation have had their reimbursements from the state's Underground Storage Tank Fund (USTF) indefinitely suspended. The Water Board inadvertently overspent the Fund by \$80 million late last year. This means that millions of dollars of work, already performed, is not being reimbursed. The category in which the suspensions has occurred (Category C) is comprised of small business owners and small consulting firms. Even in solid economic times these entities would not have the resources to withstand this huge financial hit. Today, things are even worse.

AB 1188 does the following:

- Increases the UST fee charged on motor fuels stored in underground storage tanks from 1.4 cents/gallon to 2 cents/gallon (6 tenths of one cent/gallon increase) for two years.
- Provides language that allows the Water Board to unsuspend over 1300 UST claims in the "C" class (CIOMA members) that are currently suspended indefinitely. This action has barred them from trying to get third-party bridge financing to assist in their continuing remediation obligations.
- Allows the 1300+ suspended claimants to file for reimbursement of bridge financing costs, within specified parameters. This is compromise language developed by the Water Board and accepted by CIOMA.
- Requires the Water Board to post the results of an independent audit they are having done on the UST Fund and program on their web site.
- Moves a program for remediation of school locations (created in AB 2729-'07 (Ruskin)) from accessing funds from the "D" category account, to accessing funds in the general claims account.

Please support the grant of necessary rule waivers and please support this measure when it comes before you. This needs to be passed by the end of this session or my business will face dire economic consequences.

Sincerely
(sign name)

cc: John Moffatt, Governor's Office
CIOMA