



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 04 2008

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

I am writing to respond to your letter of December 20, 2007, requesting information regarding California's request for a waiver under section 209 of the Clean Air Act. You request certain records by January 7, 2008, and additional documents thereafter. Please be assured that EPA respects your very strong interest in this issue and is committed to providing the Committee to the extent possible information necessary to satisfy its oversight interests consistent with our Constitutional and statutory obligations.

Your request is a top priority for the Agency and we are working hard to respond as quickly as possible. To that end, the Agency has taken a number of steps to expedite the process of collecting and evaluating the responsiveness of gathered documents. As you know, the Agency responded immediately after receiving your request by sending mass mailers on December 21 and 26, 2007, directing all Agency personnel to preserve responsive documents. Points of contact for each office within the Agency were established to ensure the document collection process is coordinated across the entire Agency. Preliminary results suggest there may be tens of thousands of emails and documents that are possibly responsive to your request. Accordingly, we have established a computer database to facilitate the collection and evaluation of documents, and thus make further response ultimately more efficient.

Although we have taken the steps described above in order to process the request as quickly and effectively as possible, this will still be a significant logistical burden on the Agency. Therefore, we will need additional time to process your request. We expect to further respond by Friday, January 11, 2008.

If you have further questions regarding this letter, please contact me or have your staff call Tom Dickerson in my office at (202) 564-3638.

Sincerely,



for

Christopher P. Bliley
Associate Administrator

cc: The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member