USE HUNDHED THEAD CONDRESS

KAREN NELSON, STAFF DIRECTOR

TTA VALLA A STATE TA VALLA A STATE CARACTERISTICS CARACTERISTICS CARACTERISTICS PARTY E STUDION SASSACHISETTS M STATTERY KANSAG AM GIOPER (ENRESSEE FRANK PALLONE, JR. HEW TRRSP CHANG A WASHINGTON, TEXAS SHERROD SROWN, DHO MIKE KNEIDLER, WASHINGTON JOHN O DINGELL, MICHIGAN (EX OFFICIO) The second constant
The second constant<

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

2415 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6118 PHONE (202) 225-4952

December 3, 1993

Letters to the Editor <u>New York Times</u> 229 W. 43rd St. New York, NY 10036

Dear Sir or Madam:

As one of the primary authors of the 1990 Clean Air Act, I was greatly dismayed by the serious factual errors in your recent story on environmental regulation ("Unbending Regulations Incite Move to Alter Pollution Laws," Nov. 29, 1993).

According to the article, an Amoco plant was "required under a change in the Clean Air Act" to spend \$31 million to reduce benzene emissions from a wastewater treatment facility, while it could have spent just \$6 million to achieve greater reductions at its marine terminal, where vapors escape when fuels are loaded and unloaded. This example was supposed to demonstrate problems that have arisen when "Congress itself provided the specifics and took away the discretion earlier given to agencies to write regulations."

Unfortunately, your reporter got his facts backwards. Congress did <u>not</u> specifically mandate benzene controls at the wastewater treatment facility. These controls were required by regulations issued by the Bush Administration, acting without any express congressional directive to regulate wastewater emissions. Instead, what Congress did specifically mandate in section 183(f) of the 1990 Clean Air Act was exactly the controls on the Amoco marine terminal advocated in the article.

In the 1990 law, Congress required specific air pollution controls like those on marine terminals because of the failure of past Administrations to act responsibly. The true facts show that the law is working and will curb dangerous emissons cost-effectively.

Sincerely,

ENRY A. WAXMAN

Chairman, Subcommittee on Health and the Environment