

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
9TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1309

March 27, 2008

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Douglas P. Scott
Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Dear Director Scott:

We are writing to request a public hearing in Chicago, Illinois, to discuss British Petroleum's (BP) application to the State of Indiana to increase refining capacity at their Whiting Refinery. If accepted without adequate pollution controls, this permit could potentially lead to an increase in the emission of several harmful toxins including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and CFC's, otherwise known as greenhouse gases.

As you are aware, BP submitted a request to modify its existing permit on November 1, 2007. The permit would allow the company to expand its Whiting Refinery located in Gary, Indiana, and to increase production of crude oil. In its application, BP contends that despite increased production levels, pollution will decrease by:

- Adding pollution controls;
- Replacing older equipment with more efficient units; and,
- Removing recently-eliminated equipment from operations.

We request a public hearing in Illinois to discuss the permit and its potential impact on the environment. Earlier this month, Indiana held a public hearing for its residents. The people of Illinois, who will also be directly affected by this permit, have not had the opportunity to weigh in on this decision or to hear precisely how BP plans to mitigate the impacts associated with increasing production levels. We feel that this is crucial because any modification of the Whiting Refinery directly impacts Chicagoland area, which is within 20 miles of the facility.

We look forward to your prompt response. Indiana's public comment period expired on the March 24th, and the U.S. EPA has hinted it is close to approving the permit. Therefore it is critical that your office hold a public hearing in Illinois as soon as possible so that the public may have the opportunity comment on the permit before it is processed and approved.

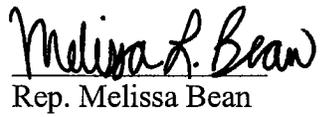
Sincerely,

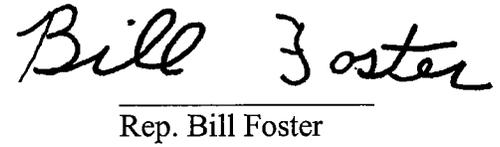

Rep. Jan Schakowsky

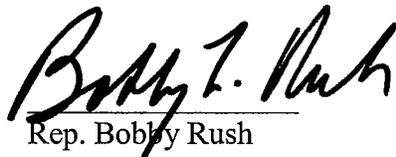

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