



March 18, 2024

Chair David Hochschild

Vice Chair Siva Gunda

Commissioner Noemi Gallardo

Commissioner Andrew McAllister

Commissioner Patty Monahan

California Energy Commission

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Californians Need A Price Gouging Penalty -- The Buck Stops This Summer

Dear CEC Commissioners,

California's oil refiners reported to the Energy Commission that their average gross [refining margin](#) from selling gasoline in the California gallon in 2023 was \$1.01 per gallon.

A buck per gallon is too much for oil refiners to take for profit and overhead when working people have to choose between paying for food and filling up.

California oil refiners reported to their investors that their operating and other costs of running their refineries are between [20 and 30 cents per gallon](#). California oil refiners are keeping between 70 and 80 cents off every gallon of gas sold as pure profit.

Under SBx1 2, the California Energy Commission must determine what an excessive profit is before a price gouging penalty goes into effect. Californians need the penalty in place before summer when gas prices and oil refiner profits are expected to spike again.

It's time for the California Energy Commission to take decisive action and implement a price gouging penalty by this summer in order to protect Californians from the outrageous profits that come with California gasoline price spikes.

The buck stops this summer.

Sincerely,

Asian Pacific Environmental Network
California Working Families Party
Center for Biological Diversity
The Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment
The Climate Center
The Climate Alliance of Santa Cruz County
Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas
Consumer Watchdog
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety
Elected Officials to Protect America - California
Environmental Working Group
Friends of the Earth
Gemini Energy Solutions
Glendale Environmental Coalition
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Mothers Out Front
Oil and Gas Action Network
Oil Change International
RootsAction.Org
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Stand.Earth
Sunflower Alliance