

ALAN LOWENTHAL

47TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND MINERAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
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Dear Chairman Burke:

I am writing to convey my strong support for the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Proposed Rule 1410 that replaces the dangerous hydrofluoric acid (HF) and modified HF (MHF) with safer alternatives. These toxic chemicals used in the alkylation process of many refineries within the SCAQMD's jurisdiction pose a great threat to the health and safety of workers and neighboring communities, including those I represent in California's 47th District.

For decades, residents of the South Bay region have been living in fear of potentially catastrophic leaks, explosions, and releases of chemicals at the Torrance and Wilmington Refineries. Both refineries are near communities that are already burdened with a disproportionate exposure and vulnerability to pollution. It is these disadvantaged neighborhoods that would most suffer from a potential HF release

HF and MHF are both highly toxic and can quickly enter the body through inhalation or dermal contact. Even with minimal doses, there can be damage and fluid build-up in the lungs as well as slow-healing chemical burns when there is penetration to the skin. In cases of extreme exposure, these chemicals can cause malfunction of major internal organs and may be fatal.

Communities of Southern California have been put at risk for too long and it is time to enforce a ban on HF and MHF. I support the SCAQMD's decision to expedite the rulemaking process and potentially adopt safer alternatives to the alkylation process to protect our workers, residents, and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Lowenthal".

Alan Lowenthal

Member of Congress