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Red Cavaney President and CEO American Petroleum Institute 1220 L Street NW Washington, DC 20005 5/13/04
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Dear Mr. Cavaney,

As Chairman, Chairman-Elect, and Immediate Past Chairman of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC), we are writing to thank you for funding the activities of State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations (STRONGER) that has enabled this important non-profit corporation to review the environmental programs of eight states during the past four years.

American Petroleum Institute supports the program with \$250,000 a year. Without this support, the program could not function. We appreciate the commitment this represents for API. The states have a lengthy history of environmental protection and it is heartening to see industry support this state mission rather than fight it or attempt to weaken it.

We urge continued participation in leadership by industry with the STRONGER organization. Industry guidance and example have been fundamental in furthering the mission of STRONGER and in helping states strengthen their environmental enforcement programs. Strong stewardship such as yours is key to this program.

Sincerely,

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
Chairman
Interstate Oil and Gas
Compact Commission

Frank Murkowski Governor of Alaska Chairman-Elect Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota
Immediate Past Chairman
Interstate Oil and Gas
Compact Commission

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(date of mailing)

The Honorable Christopher Bond United States Senate 274 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bond,

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We are advised by the non-profit organization known as STRONGER that it is seeking a \$300,000 line item appropriation in the budget handled by the Senate subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development. Since you chair this committee, we wanted you to be aware of the enthusiastic support of the nation's oil and natural gas producing states for this funding. STRONGER, or State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations, has the support of the American Petroleum Institute, which assists in the funding of the organization.

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) developed the "state review" process in 1991. Initially it was funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA has been involved with the process and urged creation of an organization independent of the states, which has evolved into the STRONGER organization.

Because of EPA's role in forming STRONGER and its strong, ongoing involvement with the organization, it is appropriate that the government play a part in funding this important work.

If you have questions regarding the importance of the state review process, the role of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission or the tremendous value of this program, please have your staff call upon IOGCC Executive Director Christine Hansen at (405) 525-3556, extension 200, or e-mail her at c.hansen@iogcc.state.ok.us.

Sincerely,

Bill Richardson Governor of New Mexico Chairman Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission Frank Murkowski
Governor of Alaska
Chairman-Elect
Interstate Oil and Gas
Compact Commission

John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota
Former Chairman
Interstate Oil and Gas
Compact Commission