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From: [Vaida](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#); [Halloran, Brad](#)
Subject: [External] Public Comment: Strong Opposition to CITGO Lemont Refinery Petition (Docket No. AS 2026-001)
Date: Monday, June 22, 2026 7:03:01 PM

Dear Clerk of the Board and Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

I am writing as a community member to strongly oppose the petition filed by CITGO Petroleum Corporation for an adjusted standard under Docket No. AS 2026-001. CITGO is seeking relief from the current Illinois carbon monoxide (CO) emission standards for its larger boilers and heaters during Startup, Shutdown, and Maintenance (SSM) periods. I urge the Board to deny this request. Our community lives downwind from the facility and already bears a heavy environmental burden. Relaxing emissions standards during SSM events—times when equipment is inherently less stable—poses an unnecessary risk to our air quality and local health. Furthermore, CITGO's history of air quality disputes and regulatory enforcement actions makes this request deeply concerning. Granting an adjusted standard essentially normalizes elevated emissions rather than pushing a major industrial facility to invest in better controls or operational solutions. Our neighborhood deserves strict, protective environmental enforcement, not customized administrative carve-outs that benefit a corporate bottom line at our physical expense. I respectfully request that the Illinois Pollution Control Board deny this adjusted standard and require CITGO to fully comply with existing state emission rules at all times. Thank you for your time and consideration of the health and safety of Lemont residents.

Sincerely,
Vaida Freitakas
Sent from my iPhone