From: Andrew Grigg
To: Brown, Don
Cc: Halloran, Brad
Subject: [External] Public Comment in Opposition to CITGO Petition, Docket No. AS 2026-001
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 9:34:33 AM

To the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

I am writing to strongly oppose CITGO Petroleum Corporation's petition for an adjusted standard in Docket No. AS 2026-001 concerning carbon monoxide emissions at the CITGO Lemont Refinery.

This issue is particularly important to me because it is happening adjacent to my own community. The Lemont refinery sits within and immediately adjacent to communities where people live, raise families, attend school, and expect that the air around their homes will be protected by meaningful environmental standards.

CITGO is asking the State of Illinois to provide an alternative approach to compliance with carbon monoxide emission standards during startup, shutdown, and certain malfunction-related operating periods. I believe the Illinois Pollution Control Board should reject this request.

Environmental regulations should exist to protect the public, particularly when industrial facilities operate near residential communities. Startup, shutdown, and malfunction periods should not become loopholes through which a facility is allowed to avoid the environmental protections that apply during normal operations. If CITGO has recurring difficulty complying with the standard during predictable operational periods, Illinois should ask why the facility cannot be upgraded or operated differently rather than simply changing the regulatory requirements for that facility.

The appropriate response to recurring compliance problems should be to improve equipment, operations, maintenance, and pollution controls rather than permanently weakening the standards that protect surrounding communities.

The CITGO Lemont Refinery is a massive industrial facility operating in close proximity to Lemont, Romeoville, Bolingbrook, Lockport, and other surrounding communities. Residents should not be expected to simply accept additional regulatory flexibility for a major refinery when the consequences of industrial emissions are borne by the people who live nearby. And that is to say nothing of the principal product they produce, and its toxic impacts to the air across the country, and climate as a whole.

I am especially concerned about the precedent this petition could establish. An adjusted standard should not become a mechanism by which large, financially capable corporations can avoid investing in the infrastructure and pollution-control improvements necessary to comply with environmental standards. Companies operating facilities of this scale should be expected to meet strong environmental requirements, not seek exceptions when compliance becomes inconvenient or expensive. We are a state of laws, in spite of what the current federal government would have us believe.

The Board should place the health and welfare of Illinois residents ahead of corporate convenience. Communities surrounding the Lemont refinery deserve cleaner air, stronger

protections, transparency, and confidence that environmental standards will be enforced consistently.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to deny CITGO Petroleum Corporation’s petition for an adjusted standard in Docket No. AS 2026-001.

Thank you for considering my comments and for placing them into the official record.

Sincerely,

Andrew Grigg