DASSEL'S
PETROLEUM, INC.

September 21, 2006

Docket Management System
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street SW
Nassif Building
Room PL-401
Washington, D.C. 20590-001

RE: Hazardous Materials Transportation; Registration and Fee Assessment Program, PHMSA Docket No. PHMSA-2006-25589 (MH-208F)

To Whom It May Concern:

As a propane supplier, I pride myself on my safety practices and procedures. However, I feel I must contact you regarding your proposal to raise the fees I have to pay to ship propane.

My company, Dassel's Petroleum, Inc., employs 50 people in the delivery of propane gas. We are a small business located in California that delivers propane to customers who use it in a variety of ways in their homes, businesses and on their farms.

I have been in compliance with the registration regulations ever since the beginning. I don't have a problem with the government keeping records on companies that transport hazardous materials, especially after 9/11. But I do have a problem with the government transferring my money – in the name of safety – to someone else who has not been as responsible as my industry in developing safety materials for emergency responders.

Many companies are being pushed into the non-small category not because of their growth but because of fluctuations in the overall cost of propane. Consequently, fee levels are directly related to the price of propane. DOT should act to change the size threshold for propane companies to one based upon number of employees, otherwise many companies won't know from year-to-year whether they are small or not, which also hampers DOT's ability to accurately predict revenue levels. We are working with SBA on this issue, but DOT should address this important problem on its own.

On behalf of my company and my customers, I urge you to accept the millions of dollars the propane industry pays to develop programs to increase safety of emergency responders in lieu of making me pay a second time.

Sincerely,

Leslie Elliott

Leslie Elliott, Office Manager
Dassel's Petroleum, Inc.