

ORIGINAL : STARK NORTHEAST OIL CORP.

55165

P.O. Box 858
1878 Maxon Road
Schenectady, N.Y. 12301
FAX (518) 346-0735

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
MAY 14 PM 12:46

(518) 346-2304

1 (800) 527-7270

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RSPA-99-5137-23

Dockets Unit
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room PL 401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Docket N. RSPA-99-5 137 (HM-208C)

To Whom It May Concern:

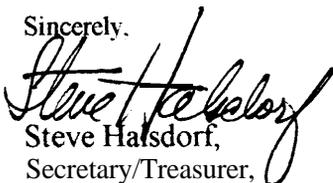
On behalf of **my** business, Stark Northeast Oil Corp., I would like to comment on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the Hazardous Materials Transportation: Registration and Fee Assessment Program. My business is strongly opposed to the increase of the annual registration fee. While I support training for the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) program, I cannot support **expansion** of the program.

An increase in the annual registration fee would cause an undue burden on **my** business. As a small marketer, the increased **registration** fee, of \$300.00 would have a significant economic impact on **my** business. I know that \$300.00 per registration might not seem like a lot of money to the Department of Transportation, but the increased registration fee would gravely impact **my** business.

Furthermore, I am concerned about the unfairness of the increased fees. Like most marketers, my business is headquartered in the city where I sell diesel fuel and heating fuel. By **paying my taxes**, I help **pay** for local fire departments and for volunteer training. Thus, it seems I am being unfairly taxed to **pa?**; for the HMEP program.

In **addition**, large chemical companies, such as **Dupont**, Dow Chemical, Exxon, etc. will have to pay \$2,000.00 for the annual registration fee. I believe this program has a strong bias in favor of large businesses and **will** significantly impact smaller businesses. It is my understanding that the increased **annual** registration fee is an **unfair** tax on my company and other small businesses.

Sincerely,


Steve Halsdorf,
Secretary/Treasurer,
Stark Northeast Oil Corp.

Serving the Great Northeast

