

October 1, 2003

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Akaka:

I respectfully request your support to strike an extremely destructive amendment that is contained in the VA-HUD Appropriations bill that soon will be considered by the full Senate.

You may have seen the September 25, 2003, **Roll Call** advertisement by Briggs and Stratton that suggests 22,000 jobs are threatened by a recent action to reduce pollution from small off-road engines by the California Air Resources Board. This is nonsense, pure and simple.

The ad goes on to urge support for an expansive amendment attached to the VA-HUD Appropriations bill that pre-empts long held state authority to establish critical emission standards for small off-road engines. In California alone, the amendment affects 6 percent of all smog forming emissions and 44 percent of toxic diesel soot emissions.

I have enclosed two items that I hope you will review and consider as you develop your position on this important issue. First, you will find a brief point-by-point response to the unfounded assertions made in the Briggs and Stratton advertisement. Second, I have enclosed a fact sheet that sets forth the key provisions of the rule that was *actually* adopted and highlights revisions that accommodate industry while preserving emission benefits.

Again, I respectfully request your support to strike this amendment when the bill is considered on the Senate Floor.

Sincerely,

Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Christopher S. Bond