

United States Senate

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April 9, 2004

Lynn Laverty Elsenhans
President Shell Oil Company
Shell Oil Products US
Po Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear President Elsenhans:

When Shell announced in November 2003 that it was closing the Shell refinery in Bakersfield, California, company officials said they would not try to sell the refinery, but instead would dismantle it, and suggested that no interested buyers existed.

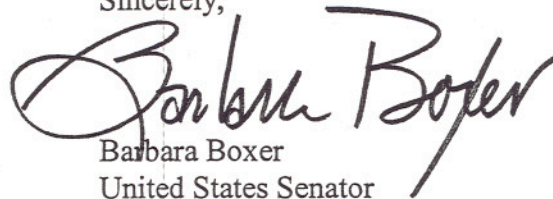
It is my understanding that this is not the case. Through our own research, we are aware of at least two potential purchasers of the Bakersfield refinery.

Shell has now released a statement that it "welcomes discussions with potential buyers of the Bakersfield Refinery." I urge you to do more than merely welcome discussions. I urge you to actively seek a purchaser for the Bakersfield refinery.

For the past five months, Shell has done nothing to find a potential buyer for the 70,000 barrel-per-day Bakersfield plant. Due to this unacceptable fact, I urge you to immediately commit to postponing the October 2004 closure and demolition of the refinery to allow time for a sale to be completed.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator