



Border Governors Conference
Conferencia de Gobernadores Fronterizos

Mr. Matthew Hale
Border 2012 Waste Policy Forum U.S. Co-Chair
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Mail code: 5304P
Washington, DC 20460 U.S.A.

Mr. Edgar Del Villar Alvelais
Advisers Coordinator for the Undersecretary of Environmental Promotion and Regulations
Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources
Av. Revolución 1425
Col. Tlacopac, San Ángel
A. Obregón 01040, D. F. México

Dear Mr. Hale and Mr. Del Villar:

Subject: Tire Initiative Letter of Understanding

The U.S.-Mexico Border States see the importance of providing long-term solutions to address the problem of U.S.-Mexican border scrap tire piles. We understand that the **U.S.-Mexico Border Scrap Tire Integrated Management Initiative** (hereinafter the "Tire Initiative") provides concrete actions that when employed have great potential to contribute significantly to the prevention of future border scrap tire piles.

The U.S.-Mexico Border States understand the importance of the Tire Initiative considering:

- The interest of the U.S. and Mexico to promote policies that enhance environmental quality and sustainable development through the implementation of initiatives like the Tire Initiative;
- That scrap tire piles throughout the border region are encroaching on the natural landscape and present a significant waste management problem;
- That scrap tire pile fires cause severe air quality issues from their emissions of dense smoke and noxious fumes and generate significant amounts of liquid wastes that can contaminate soil and ground and surface water; and
- That scrap tires serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes, rodents and other disease vectors.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, CHAIR
HOLLYWOOD, CA 2009



Therefore, the U.S.-Mexico Border States do hereby sign this Letter of Understanding to collaborate on the Tire Initiative, a framework defining the principles and actions fundamental to developing sustainable scrap tire management plans.

The Tire Initiative's Principles follow:

- PRINCIPLE 1:** Better understand the problems contributing to scrap tire generation.
- PRINCIPLE 2:** Prevent new tire piles.
- PRINCIPLE 3:** Clean-up "legacy" (existing) tire piles using environmentally sound and cost effective solutions.
- PRINCIPLE 4:** Involve stakeholders and communities in creating solutions.

The Tire Initiative's Actions follow:

- ACTION 1:** Gather information to better understand scrap tire generation (including sources of substandard tires and illegal tire entry into Mexico), illegal scrap tire dumping, and methods for effective management of scrap tires.
- ACTION 2:** Consider federal, state, and local-level regulatory options to administer scrap tire management programs.
- ACTION 3:** Encourage development and implementation of a variety of environmentally acceptable and economically promising end-use markets for scrap tires to increase recycling and reuse. (Our plan is that this will be done through economic, regulatory, and technology development incentives.)
- ACTION 4:** Abate tire piles by seeking funding to eliminate legacy scrap tire piles, and invest in and adequately manage temporary storage and transfer stations to facilitate recycling and/or reuse of scrap tires.
- ACTION 5:** Involve the U.S. and Mexican governments, the private-sector, academics, and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Scrap Tire Integrated Management Initiative.
- ACTION 6:** Establish and implement educational outreach programs on scrap tire recycling and reuse opportunities geared towards a diverse audience of stakeholders.

The Tire Initiative was agreed upon signed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) in October 2006 as a result of commitments made by the United States and Mexico during the 2004 Binational Commission meeting.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, CHAIR
HOLLYWOOD, CA 2008



By signing this Letter of Understanding, the U.S.-Mexico Border States are:

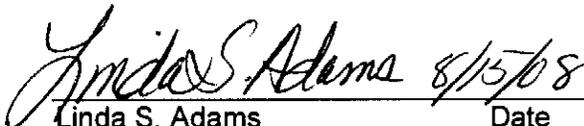
INDICATING our awareness and understanding of the Tire Initiative and its Principles and Actions which are stated in full above;

EXPRESSING our support and collaboration with the Tire Initiative;

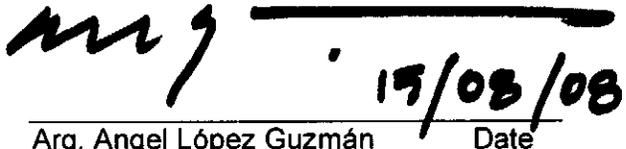
COMMITTING to work together to leverage our existing resources to implement activities which support each of the above Actions while maintaining consistency with each country's waste management policies; and

COMMITTING to encourage U.S. and Mexican municipalities to support the Tire Initiative.

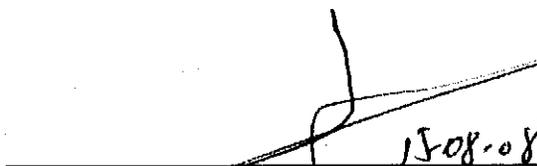
The U.S.-Mexico Border States believe that together we can prevent the creation of additional scrap tire piles and clean up our border communities.


Linda S. Adams 8/15/08
Date

Linda S. Adams
Secretary
California Environmental Protection
Agency
On Behalf of the State of California


Arq. Angel López Guzmán 15/08/08
Date

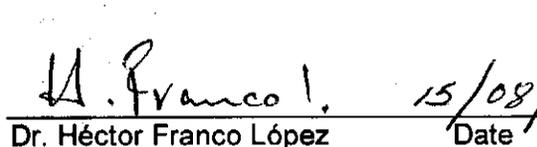
Arq. Angel López Guzmán
Director General
State Commission for Ecology and
Sustainable Development
On Behalf of the State of Sonora


Lic. Sócrates Bastida Hernández 15/08/08
Date

Lic. Sócrates Bastida Hernández
Secretary
Secretary for Environmental Protection
On Behalf of the State of Baja California


Quim. José Luis Tamez Garza 15/08/08
Date

Quim. José Luis Tamez Garza
Director General
Environmental Protection Agency and
Natural Resources
On Behalf of the State of Nuevo León


Dr. Héctor Franco López 15/08/08
Date

Dr. Héctor Franco López
Secretary
Secretary of the Environment
On Behalf of the State of Coahuila


Stephen A. Owens 8/15/08
Date

Stephen A. Owens
Director
Arizona Department of Environmental
Quality
On Behalf of the State of Arizona

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, CHAIR
HOLLYWOOD, CA 2008

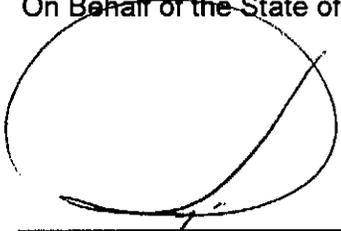




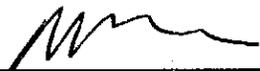
Ing. Salvador Treviño Garza 8/15/08 Date
Titular
Agency for Environment and
Sustainability of Tamaulipas
On Behalf of the State of Tamaulipas



Buddy Garcia 8/15/08 Date
Chairman
Texas Commission on Environmental
Quality
On Behalf of the State of Texas



Dra. Silvia Castro Arreola 8/15/08 Date
Director of Ecology
Secretary for Urban Development and
Ecology
On Behalf of the State of Chihuahua



Marissa Stone 8.15.08 Date
Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
On Behalf of the State of New Mexico

- cc: Senator Jorge Legorreta Ondorica – President, Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries Commission of LX Senate Legislature of the Mexican Republic
- cc: Senator Luis Alberto Villarreal García – North Border Affairs Commission of LX Senate Legislature of the Mexican Republic
- cc: Diego Cobo Terrazas – President, Environment and Natural Resources Commission of the LX Chamber of Deputies of the Mexican Republic
- cc: Wayne Nastir, Regional Administrator USEPA Region IX
- cc: Richard Greene, Regional Administrator USEPA Region VI

