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**Testimony of John McKnight, National Marine Manufacturers Association
before the California Air Resources Board regarding the Public Hearing to
Consider Regulations for Portable Outboard Marine Fuel Tanks and
Components
September 25, 2008
Diamond Bar California**

Good morning. My name is John McKnight and I am the Director of Environmental and Safety Compliance for the National Marine Manufacturers Association. I would like to thank CARB staff Dennis Goodenow, Lamar Mitchell and Manjit Ahuja on the CARB staff for working with the marine portable fuel tank manufacturers to develop a rule that achieves California's Clean Air goals while at the same time makes sense for the businesses that manufacture marine fuel tanks.

The recreational marine industry has been hit very hard by the recent economic slowdown, the rising cost of fuel, and the credit crunch. Boats and related marine products are purchased with the extra money that you may have after you finish paying your bills. One major boat builder recently had to lay off 1700 employees and everyday there are reports of boat builders laying off 30-40% of their staff. These are real people who rather than working in good jobs, now have to collect unemployment, may lose their homes and can no longer pay taxes.

For these reasons, it is more important than ever that government carefully consider the impact that these regulations have on businesses so that they can weather this economic downturn and these US based jobs can be preserved. NMMA urges the board to adopt the portable outboard marine fuel tank and component regulation, including the amendments as proposed today.