January 24, 1955

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
United States Senate

Dear Senator Lehman:

You will recall that the Interstate Oil Compact was first approved by Congress in 1935. Since that time it has been regularly approved for four year periods, the last approval coming by Senate Joint Resolution 42 in 1951. By this last action the Compact was extended to September 1, 1955.

Originally the Compact was entered into by only six states and has now grown to include twenty-two oil producing states and a number of associate member states which are not producers. The object of the Compact is to conserve oil and gas through the prevention of physical waste from any cause. It is in every sense a cooperative endeavor on the part of the several states and by virtue of this cooperation it has been possible to build huge oil and gas reserves in the interest of the whole national economy and our national security.

It so happens that the Honorable William G. Stratton, Governor of Illinois, is the chairman of the Compact Commission this year and it has been customary for a senator from the chairman's state to introduce the joint resolution calling for the extension of the Compact. In this case the extension will run from September 1, 1955 to September 1, 1959. Accordingly I am preparing to introduce this resolution for a continuance of the Compact and since your state is a member of the Compact, I would be delighted to have you join me as a co-sponsor of this resolution.

When the Compact was last extended in 1951 it received a splendid report from the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Department of Interior recommended the enactment of the resolution because of the demonstrated effectiveness of the Compact in achieving the conservation objectives for which it was designed.

I am attaching a copy in the form in which it will be introduced and would appreciate it if you could have a member of your staff notify my office as quickly as possible of your desire to be a co-sponsor.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosure