

From: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: 1/7/2011 8:04:26 AM
To: 'mpl@cpuc.ca.gov' (mpl@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: SFC- PUC Chief Responds To Editorial
Nice comments Mike and spot on.

From: News Flash
Sent: Friday, January 07, 2011 06:39 AM
Subject: SFC- PUC Chief Responds To Editorial

A letter to the editor by Michael R. Peevey, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, comments on the San Bruno pipeline. Kim Griffin

PUC chief responds to editorial

The San Francisco Chronicle, January 6, 2011

Letters to the Editor

The Public Utilities Commission "asleep at the switch"? Wrong. The Chronicle's own reporting on the San Bruno accident has been based on the results of tough inspections, audits and directives by the PUC. We're now pursuing penalties against PG&E for safety violations.

PG&E knew the "San Bruno pipeline was in need of repair"? Wrong. The section on PG&E's priority list was in South San Francisco, 2.88 miles away from the explosion.

Former PUC President Loretta Lynch "hounded out of office"? Wrong. Lynch served every day of her term as commissioner. And, by the way, total fines levied against gas pipeline operators during Lynch's tenure as president of the PUC? Zero.

The San Bruno tragedy must and will result in a safer natural gas infrastructure, and changes in regulation at both the federal and state level will be part of that. The PUC already has begun reviewing our own processes and has appointed an outside expert panel to make recommendations on pipeline safety. We have also hired four additional pipeline inspectors. Your readers need to be able to make informed judgments about needed changes for public safety.

*Michael R. Peevey, president,
California Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco*