



# Maricopa County

Air Quality Department

Planning and Analysis Division  
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December 30, 2005

John Von Bargaen  
Ship and Shore Environmental, Inc.  
2474 N Palm Drive,  
Long Beach CA 90806

**SUBJECT:** Commendation re. Rule 358

Dear John:

I have thanked you verbally in the course of the dozens of times that I and the Maricopa County Air Quality Department's Planning and Analysis Division have sought your expertise and counsel. You worked with us periodically over more than 4 years to help us accomplish the very difficult and time consuming task of creating Rule 358. As the Maricopa County code for reducing VOC emissions from the polystyrene foam industry, we relied on industry sources such as you and your immediate associates for facts that underpin the rule. As we all know, there were very few hard facts initially available to the Department. I am belatedly writing you this letter of commendation for all your help.

No one was more honest and forthcoming than you out of the half dozen generally reliable contacts affiliated with the EPS industry whose information we used in developing Rule 358. Your company's long experience in building and installing equipment that controls VOC-emissions from EPS and related industries lent a singular value to your communications with us. Your stated commitment to be truthful allowed us to rely on your information, and we were not disappointed.

I very much appreciated the lecture about EPS foam you provided our engineers three years ago, an effort by Ship & Shore that wisely included a field trip to Highland Products. This was part of an informal partnership that worked for a common goal of creating a rule that was fair-minded toward both the public's health and the EPS industry's need to conduct business. Nowhere was this partnership more clearly demonstrated than when the Society of the Plastics Industry got me and my California's counterpart, rule-designer Laki Tisopoulos, to speak at SPI's November conference about our respective EPS-foam rules. Thank you for your part in this.

By the time of Rule 358's April 2005 adoption, the EPS foam block industry had already cut its emission rate by at least 30% by using lower-VOC beads and by newly added technology which in large part directly involved Ship & Shore's RTO-centered emission control equipment and expertise. I also appreciated Anoosheh Mostafaei's help.

Again, I extend heartfelt gratitude for your exemplary efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Kanner Howe".