

財經事務及庫務局局長

香港雪廠街
中區政府合署



SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL
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11 March 2004

The Honourable Miriam Lau, JP
Chairman of the House Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

Budget-related subsidiary legislation

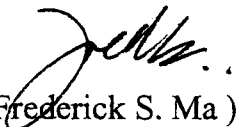
In his Budget Speech on 10 March 2004, the Financial Secretary announced the proposal to extend the expiry date of the duty concession for ultra low sulphur diesel (ULSD) from 31 March 2004 to 31 December 2004. The implementation of this proposal requires subsidiary legislation. I am writing to advise you of the Administration's plan to submit the subsidiary legislation which is necessary to effect the concession to the Legislative Council for approval.

The current concessionary duty rate on ULSD at \$1.11 per litre was approved by the Legislative Council in March 2003 and is scheduled to expire on 31 March 2004. Unless the Legislative Council by resolution amends Schedule 1 to the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance (Cap. 109) to vary the duty rate on ULSD, the duty rate will automatically revert to \$2.89 per litre on 1 April 2004.

Against the above background, I intend to move a resolution at the Council sitting on 24 March 2004, the last regular meeting in March at which resolutions may be moved, to effect the proposed extension. I am seeking the President's agreement to waiving the 12-day notice requirement for resolution under the Legislative Council Rules of Procedure 29(1).

I should be grateful if you could circulate this letter to all Members for their information. I look forward to your support of the concerned resolution.

Yours sincerely,



(Frederick S. Ma)

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury