

CITGO Sets The Record Straight

U.S. consumers have been inundated with misleading and inaccurate information about CITGO Petroleum Corporation, most recently regarding the supply agreement between CITGO and 7-Eleven. CITGO decided to allow its supply agreement with 7-Eleven to expire at the end of September as part of the company's strategy to balance sales volumes with refinery production. Even though both 7-Eleven and CITGO informed the media of this decision, it was inaccurately portrayed as a reaction by 7-Eleven to developments in international politics.

Inaccuracies such as these have led to numerous calls for a boycott of our products. We believe this move is being pushed for political or economic gain, ignoring the implications it would have on American businesses and the general public.

We understand that, as a corporation, we cannot always control the environment in which we operate, but we feel compelled to set the record straight out of respect for our employees, business partners, customers and U.S. consumers. Our primary commitment to all of them remains unchanged: to responsibly provide the quality energy products the U.S. market needs.

This commitment—upheld by CITGO's refining capacity of 861,000 barrels-per-day from five refineries—is in alignment with the global energy policy of our parent company, Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA). Furthermore, when you add PDVSA's share in another three refineries also dedicated to serving the needs of American consumers, PDVSA's overall contribution to the U.S. energy market is 1.2 million barrels-per-day of refining capacity.

With the largest crude oil reserves in the Western Hemisphere, Venezuela has been a reliable supplier of crude oil and refined products to the U.S. market for decades. Clearly, energy relations between the two countries are closely intertwined, as several U.S. oil and gas companies either have significant investments in Venezuela or purchase Venezuelan crude oil to satisfy the needs of their customers. Among them are Chevron, ConocoPhillips and several others.

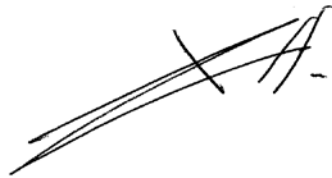
Here in the United States, CITGO has approximately 4,000 employees. Through a network of more than 13,000 independently owned retail locations, our company is part of an American community of 100,000 people who work hard every day to help their neighbors get where they want to go.

We also give back to the communities where we do business, as we know that our presence is a privilege and not a right. Our employees spend countless hours volunteering in their communities, while CITGO donates millions of dollars through different community outreach programs. Over our 21-year relationship with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, we have donated more than \$83 million to combat neuromuscular disorders. And the help distributed under our heating oil program is expected to reach up to 1.2 million low-income Americans this winter. We are also investing more than one billion dollars to ensure that our operations are safe and environmentally responsible.

In good times and in bad, CITGO is there. We were instrumental in securing additional product supplies from our parent company in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We are proud that our disaster relief efforts have been recognized by federal and state government officials.

The facts speak for themselves. CITGO acts responsibly and remains committed to its customers, marketing and retail partners, employees and the general public throughout the United States.

It is my hope that each one of you will continue to patronize your local CITGO outlet.



Félix Rodríguez
President and CEO
CITGO Petroleum Corporation

