

March 26, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Carol Browner
Asst. to the President for Energy & Climate Change
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Secretaries Chu and Vilsack, Administrator Jackson and Mrs. Browner:

The undersigned diverse group of business, environmental, taxpayer, free-market and public health groups opposes any administrative or legislative efforts to increase the current cap on the amount of ethanol permitted to be blended into gasoline until independent and comprehensive testing has been completed that indicates that such mid-level ethanol blends (whether E12, E15 or E20) will not pose a risk to all gasoline-powered engines, to public health, to the environment and to consumers.

To quote from President Obama's March 9, 2009 Memorandum on "Scientific Integrity":

"Science and the scientific process must inform and guide decisions of my Administration on a wide range of issues, including improvement of public health, protection of the environment, increased efficiency in the use of energy and other resources, mitigation of the threat of climate change, and protection of national security."

Some have advocated that Congress or the Environmental Protection Agency ignore President Obama's Memorandum, avoid the safeguards built into Section 211(f) of the Clean Air Act (safeguards that were just strengthened by Congress in 2007), and approve mid-level ethanol blends before comprehensive testing programs on these blends have been completed by qualified and independent stakeholders, such as the Department of Energy and the Coordinating Research Council. We collectively, and strongly, oppose such an ill-considered approach as contrary to scientific integrity and potentially harmful to our environment, public health and consumers.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Worker Freedom
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Conservative Union
American Lung Association

American Meat Institute
American Sportfishing Association
Americans for Tax Reform
Americans for the Preservation of Liberty
Association of International Automobile Manufacturers
Association of Marina Industries
Boat Owners Association of the United States
Center for Auto Safety
Clean Air Task Force
Competitive Enterprise Institute
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
Earthjustice
Engine Manufacturers Association
Environmental Working Group
Friends of the Earth
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Hispanic Alliance for Prosperity Institute
The Hispanic Institute
International Dairy Foods Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
National Center for Public Policy Research
National Chicken Council
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Petrochemical and Refiners Association
National Restaurant Association
National Taxpayers Union
National Turkey Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Personal Watercraft Industry Association
Public Citizen
Sierra Club
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Snack Food Association
Taxpayers for Common Sense

Alabama Poultry and Egg Association
California Poultry Federation
Georgia Poultry Federation

Indiana Poultry Federation
Iowa Turkey Federation
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
Mississippi Poultry Association
North Carolina Poultry Federation
Poultry Federation of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri
Virginia Poultry Association

Butterball, LLC
FarmEcon LLC.
Gold'n Plump Poultry
Pilgrim's Pride

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable Henry Waxman
The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable John Boehner
The Honorable Eric Cantor
The Honorable Joe Barton
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Jon Kyl
The Honorable James Inhofe