

July 16, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Opposition to Legislative Authorization for Mid-Level Ethanol Blends Through FY 2010 Appropriations Process

Dear Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran:

We, the undersigned diverse group of environmental groups, business associations and public interest organizations, write today to urge you to oppose any legislative authorization of so-called “mid-level ethanol blends” (blends above 10 percent ethanol, such as E15 or E20) as part of the FY 2010 appropriations process. Such an effort would be an “end run” around the existing consumer and environmental protections embedded in the Clean Air Act. We are united in our opposition to any legislative efforts to alter the current regulatory restrictions on introducing mid-level blends into commerce until the completion of independent, rigorous and verifiable testing that indicates that the use of such blends will not pose a risk to gasoline-powered engines, to public health, to the environment and to consumers.

Some have advocated that Congress substitute its judgment on the safety of these blends for the comprehensive and independent testing programs that have been undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency, 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,

Advanced Biofuels Association
American Conservative Union
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Lung Association
American Meat Institute
American Petroleum Institute
American Sportfishing Association
Americans for Tax Reform
Association of International Automobile Manufacturers
Association of Marina Industries
Association of Oil Pipe Lines

B.A.S.S./ESPN Outdoors
Blue Ribbon Coalition
Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.)
Center for Coastal Conservation
Clean Air Task Force
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Earthjustice
Engine Manufacturers Association
Environment America
Environmental Working Group
FarmEcon LLC
Friends Committee of National Legislation
Friends of the Earth
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Hispanic Alliance for Prosperity Institute
International Liquid Terminals Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Marine Retailers Association of America
National Association of Truck Stop Operators
National Audubon Society
National Boating Federation
National Chicken Council
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Meat Association
National Petrochemical and Refiners Association
National Turkey Federation
Natural Resource Defense Council
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Personal Watercraft Industry Association
Public Citizen
Safe Climate Campaign
Sierra Club
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council
Snack Food Association
The Wilderness Society
Union of Concerned Scientists

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee