

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