

September 22, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Opposition to E15 Amendment in the FY 2010 Interior Appropriations Bill

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

We, the undersigned diverse coalition of environmental groups, business associations and public interest organizations, write today to urge you to oppose S.AMDT. 2470 to H.R. 2996, introduced by Senator Nelson (D-NE), which would require EPA to issue a waiver under Section 211(f) of the Clean Air Act by December 1, 2009 to authorize the use of so-called “mid-level ethanol blends” (gasoline blends containing more than 10 percent ethanol, such as E15). This amendment would disregard the consumer and environmental protections embedded in the Clean Air Act that require significant testing before a new fuel is introduced. We collectively, and strongly, oppose such an ill-considered approach as contrary to scientific integrity and potentially harmful to our environment, public health, consumers and manufacturers.

We are united in our opposition to any legislative effort to force the introduction of “mid-level ethanol blends” into commerce until completion of the on-going independent, rigorous and verifiable testing 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.

Sincerely,

Advanced Biofuels Association
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
American Bakers Association
American Conservative Union
American Frozen Food Institute
American Lung Association
American Meat Institute
American Petroleum Institute
American Sportfishing Association
Association of International Automobile Manufacturers
Association of Marina Industries
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S./ESPN Outdoors)
Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.)

Center for Auto Safety
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Coastal Conservation
Clean Air Task Force
Clean Air Watch
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Engine Manufacturers Association
European Association of Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers
FarmEcon LLC
Friends of the Earth
Grocery Manufacturers Association
International Dairy Foods Association
Marine Retailers Association of America
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of Margarine Manufacturers
National Boating Federation
National Chicken Council
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Petrochemical and Refiners Association
National Turkey Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Personal Watercraft Industry Association
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Public Citizen
Safe Climate Campaign
Sierra Club
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Snack Food Association
The Hispanic Institute
The Wilderness Society
Tortilla Industry Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Union of Concerned Scientists

cc: Members of the United States Senate