July 26, 2010

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

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

Re: Opposition to Potential Amendment on Authorization of Mid-Level Ethanol Blends

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

The undersigned organizations urge you to oppose any amendment to the upcoming Senate energy bill that would authorize legislatively the introduction into commerce of ethanol blends higher than ten percent (so-called mid-level ethanol blends) for use in conventional gasoline-powered engines. Such an amendment would short-circuit existing two- year joint Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Energy and industry research projects designed to insure that mid-level ethanol blends do not harm gasoline-powered engines, defeat emissions control devices, pose safety risks to consumers, or increase emissions from these engines.

Sound science, environmental protection and consumer safety -- not politics – must guide this important decision. Section 211(f) of the Clean Air Act mandates a detailed scientific review before new fuels, additives, or fuel blends are introduced into commerce. EPA is in the midst of carrying out this review, including soliciting public comment from all stakeholders on the introduction of mid-level ethanol blends. This review must be allowed to continue and must not be pre-empted by Congress.

We collectively urge you to reject any attempt to attach a mid-level ethanol authorization amendment during the Senate's consideration of energy legislation in the coming weeks and months. Such an amendment would be bad for consumers, bad for safety, bad for the environment, and, by placing politics over sound science, bad public policy.

Sincerely yours,

American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI)
American Lung Association
American Meat Institute (AMI)
American Petroleum Institute (API)
American Sportfishing Association (ASA)
American Watercraft Association (AWA)
Association of International Automobile Manufacturers (AIAM)
Association of Marina Industries
Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society/ESPN Outdoors
Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.)
Center for Coastal Conservation
Clean Air Task Force
Coastal Conservation Association (CCA)
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF)
Earthjustice

Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA)
Environmental Working Group
Friends of the Earth
Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA)
The Hispanic Institute
Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC)
National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS)
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)
National Boating Federation (NBF)
National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR)
National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)
National Petrochemical & Refiners Association (NPRA)
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI)
Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA)
Sierra Club
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council)
Snack Food Association (SFA)
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America (SIGMA)
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA)
The Petroleum Marketers Association of America (PMAA)

cc: Members of United States Senate