

September 12, 2011

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1139E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Allow the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit to Expire

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

The undersigned diverse group of business associations, taxpayer advocates, hunger and development organizations, agricultural groups, free-market groups, religious organizations, environmental groups, budget hawks, and public interest organizations urge you to allow the refundable Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) to sunset this year and to resist calls for spending on infrastructure for conventional biofuels. The tax credit is already set to expire on December 31, 2011, and should not be renewed.

Congress has the opportunity to end the \$6 billion a year subsidy to gasoline refiners who blend corn ethanol into gasoline. At a time of spiraling deficits, we do not believe Congress should continue subsidizing gasoline refiners for something that they are already required to do by the Renewable Fuels Standard.

Experts like the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office have concluded that the subsidy is unnecessary, and leading economists agree that ending it would have little impact on ethanol production, prices or jobs.

We urge you to let VEETC expire this year and resist calls for spending on infrastructure for conventional biofuels. As our country moves to reduce our budget deficit, it would be irresponsible to commit to new tax incentives or additional spending that continue to subsidize corn ethanol.

Sincerely,

ActionAid USA
Africa Action
Alabama Poultry & Egg Association
Alliance of Western Milk Producers
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Jewish World Service
American Meat Institute
Americans for Limited Government
Americans for Prosperity
Association for Dressings & Sauces
Beyond Pesticides
Bread for the World
Broiler & Egg Association of Minnesota
California Dairy Campaign
California Poultry Federation
California Safe Schools
Center for Auto Safety
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Food Safety
The Center for the Celebration of Creation
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
Citizens for Tax Justice
Clean Air Task Force
Clean Water Action
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Competitive Enterprise Institute
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Dairy Producers of Utah
Defenders of Wildlife
Dogwood Alliance
Earth Day Network
Environment America
Environmental Working Group
Food First
Foreign Policy In Focus
Freedom Action
FreedomWorks
Friends of the Earth
Georgia Milk Producers
Georgia Poultry Federation
Greenhorns
Greenpeace
Grocery Manufacturers Association

Heartland Institute
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Indiana State Poultry Association
International Center for Technology Assessment
International Dairy Foods Association
John Locke Foundation
Kentucky Poultry Federation
KyotoUSA
League of Conservation Voters
Let Freedom Ring
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries
Milk Producers Council
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
Mississippi Poultry Federation
MoveOn.org
National Association of Margarine Manufacturers
National Black Chamber of Commerce
National Catholic Rural Life Conference
National Center for Public Policy Research
National Chicken Council
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Meat Association
National Restaurant Association
National Taxpayers Union
National Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Nevada Dairy Commission
North Carolina Poultry Federation
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northwest Dairy Association
Northwest Environmental Defense Center
Oil Change International
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Oxfam America
Partners for the Land & Agricultural Needs of Traditional Peoples (PLANT)
Pax Christi USA
The Poultry Federation
Public Citizen
Safe Climate Campaign
Safe Lawns Foundation
Sierra Club
Snack Food Association
Southeast Milk Inc.

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Taxpayers for Common Sense
Taxpayers Protection Alliance
Tennessee Poultry Association
Texas Poultry Federation
Union of Concerned Scientists
U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
Utah Dairy Producers
Virginia Poultry Federation
Washington Cattle Feeders Association
Washington State Dairy Federation
World Wildlife Fund

cc: Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Pelosi, Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction