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March 4, 2009

Ms. Lisa Jackson  
Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Jackson,

The EPA currently allows gasoline to be blended with up to a ten percent renewable ethanol blend. Due to the positive results of ethanol usage and research showing that E20 fuel has not impaired current vehicles, I urge you to consider increasing the cap on renewable ethanol blends to fifteen or twenty percent.

Increasing the amount of renewable ethanol blended into gasoline from ten percent to twenty percent has not presented problems for current vehicles or fuel dispensing equipment. A recent year-long study by the State of Minnesota found that increasing ethanol blends from ten percent to twenty percent in a gallon of gasoline provided an effective fuel across a range of tests. Researchers conducted lab tests on these vehicles and found that E20 was compatible with the vehicle fuel systems. Drivers of these same tested vehicles indicated that E20 fueled cars had both the power and performance they expected from the vehicles.

The United States currently imports 65 percent of our petroleum. In 2007, the production of 6.5 billion gallons of ethanol displaced the need to import 228 million barrels of oil. By increasing the amount of renewable fuels we use, we can decrease our dependence on foreign oil. In addition, we can continue to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. A USDA study shows that ethanol yields a positive energy balance during production. When in use, ethanol blended fuels reduce carbon monoxide tailpipe emissions and help to reduce smog. Finally, in these troubling economic times, the ethanol industry has provided employment for 238,000 workers and added \$47.6 billion to the nation's GDP. By increasing the cap on ethanol blends, we can continue to increase these positive results.

I look forward to your reply. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or Alexis Taylor, on my staff at (202) 225-3806.

Sincerely,



Leonard L. Boswell  
Member of Congress

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