

July 22, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A The Capitol
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Opposition to Legislative Action Prohibiting or Delaying the Inclusion of Carbon Emissions from Indirect Land Use Change in the Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Biofuels in the Renewable Fuel Standard Through FY 2010 Appropriations Process

Dear Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran:

We, the undersigned diverse group of environmental groups, business associations and public interest organizations, write today to urge you to oppose any legislative prohibition or delay on the inclusion of carbon emissions from indirect land use change (ILUC) in the life cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from biofuels in the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) as part of the FY 2010 appropriations process.

Recent research by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and experts worldwide demonstrate that policies promoting biofuels production in ways that shift farmland from food and fiber production to biofuel feedstocks increase GHG emissions. Prohibiting or delaying the assessment of ILUC from biofuels would undermine the existing climate, consumer and environmental protections in the Clean Air Act that passed with overwhelming support in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. It would also increase the risk that biofuels will drive up food and fiber prices and ultimately threaten the credibility of biofuels in general, hampering the development of truly advanced biofuels that can help us meet our energy, environmental and security needs.

Some have advocated that Congress direct the Environmental Protection Agency to ignore comprehensive and independent analyses of the GHG impacts of biofuels. We are united in our strong opposition to any such legislative effort to undermine the scientific integrity of the RFS and urge you to oppose such efforts.

Sincerely,

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Sportfishing Association
Boat Owners Association of the United States
Center for Biological Diversity

Clean Air Task Force
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
Defenders of Wildlife
Earth Policy Institute
Ecology Center
Environment America
Environmental Working Group
FarmEcon LLC
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth
Grocery Manufactures Association
Hispanic Alliance for Prosperity Institute
The Hispanic Institute
International Dairy Foods Association
League of Conservation Voters
National Audubon Society
National Boating Federation
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Petrochemical & Refiners Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Personal Watercraft Industry Association
Pew Environment Group
Sierra Club
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Snack Food Association
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Wilderness Society
Union of Concerned Scientists

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee