



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

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April 29, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Air and Radiation Docket

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0211
Environmental Protection Agency
Mailcode: 6102T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

On behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), we are pleased to submit comments in support of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) request for comments to allow up to 15 percent ethanol blends. Increasing the ethanol blend level will allow the U.S. to promote environmental protection, help create jobs and become less dependant on foreign oil.

The agricultural sector strongly supports the increased use of domestic renewable fuels and believes biofuels are key components to helping increase our nation's energy security. AFBF has a direct and strong interest in the growth of the United States ethanol industry. If recent events have taught us anything it is that our nation should develop energy resources right here at home.

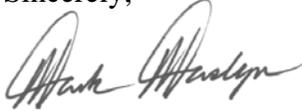
It is critical that the federal government revisit the existing limit on ethanol blending - today capped at 10 percent of each gallon of gasoline - and allow gasoline blenders and refiners to take full advantage of the benefits of ethanol blending. Moving to higher blends of ethanol is critical to the sustained health and expansion of corn and cellulosic ethanol production in the U.S. In addition, we feel that an incremental move to higher blends of ethanol would send a strong signal that the ethanol industry remains a major component of the nation's energy policy at a time when the U.S. is working to replace foreign oil with domestically produced renewable energy.

An immediate move to an intermediary blend level is both prudent and scientifically supportable. Several studies, including one conducted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the Department of Energy (DOE) on the effects of E-15 on motor vehicles and small non-road engines, have concluded that when compared to traditional gasoline, E-15 caused no significant changes in vehicle tailpipe emissions or drivability.

Again, AFBF strongly supports the increase in ethanol blend levels up to 15 percent ethanol. This change will ensure that we are actively building a solid foundation for our future energy needs.

AFBF appreciates this opportunity to comment on this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Maslyn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Maslyn" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Maslyn
Executive Director
Public Policy