



March 16, 2009

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

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing to thank you for meeting with members of the American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) and for participating in our March 2-3 "Biofuels Beltway March," a grassroots ethanol advocacy fly-in to Washington, DC earlier this month.

During that event, ACE members met with more than 70 offices of Members of Congress, focusing on the need to overcome the E10 blend wall, and on ensuring that the industry remains a sustainable, efficient, and economic alternative to fossil fuel. However, there was no more important dignitary for ACE members meet in Washington, DC than you, Administrator Jackson, and we are grateful that you focused on two critical issues in our discussion.

We are most grateful you took the time to address our concerns about the E10 blend wall and the role EPA has in examining the scientific data to consider how midlevel blends, up to E15, may be approved for use in motor vehicles. As a follow-up to our meetings with you and Members of Congress, on Friday, March 6, ACE, Growth Energy, the Renewable Fuels Association, the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition and several next generation biofuel companies united to formally petition EPA to approve the use of *up to 15 percent ethanol* per gallon of gasoline. ACE agrees with you that science, not politics, must drive the decision to move beyond E10. We are further convinced the scientific data contained in our petition and available today on the use of blends up to 15 in legacy motor vehicles justifies its approval.

ACE is encouraged that you have been discussing use of higher ethanol blends with Tom Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and other Obama Administration officials. During our meetings on Capitol Hill, Members of Congress expressed strong support for moving beyond the E10 blend wall. Allowing blends up to E15, to be used in America's existing vehicle fleet today, would immediately create jobs, ensure a market for next-generation biofuels, and provide consumers meaningful choices at the pump. The combination of these public policy benefits and the scientific evidence in support blends up to E15 compel us to encourage the Obama Administration to take swift action to approve such blends.

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We also appreciate your effort in our meeting to reinforce President Obama's commitment to a low-carbon, clean-energy future and for articulating the role that biofuels will play in helping tackle climate change. ACE shares your vision and we are confident that biofuels from various feedstocks, including corn, can and will continue to help the U.S. reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In fact, it has been demonstrated that technology innovations are making corn ethanol more sustainable, efficient, and low-carbon at the same time the age of easy oil is over – as future sources of oil prove to be expensive to extract and carbon-intensive. ACE believes our nation has an opportunity and responsibility to implement a suite of policies designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including a low carbon fuel standard. We look forward to working with you and Congress to develop and implement methodologies to calculate lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions for biofuels as part of future low-carbon policies that are scientifically defensible. Should you or your staff wish to visit a modern-day, state-of-the-art ethanol biorefinery to discover more about how technology innovations are helping biofuels contribute to a low-carbon future, ACE would be honored to help arrange a tour of a facility.

Finally, ACE appreciates EPA's consideration of the application for approval to use ethanol blends up to E15. We believe that the testing so far has demonstrated that automobiles and small engines can operate well on blends up to E15 and we are convinced that future testing will demonstrate that these vehicles and engines can operate on much higher ethanol blends. ACE welcomes EPA's review of the data and looks forward to the agency's ultimate determination of a scientifically-defensible higher blend level for future ethanol use in gasoline. We also want to make it clear that we support the retail availability of a range of blends, so that consumers, and particularly small engine users, will have meaningful fueling choices.

Again, thank you for meeting with ACE in Washington, DC. We are privileged that you took the time to discuss these issues with us and we are grateful for your leadership. ACE looks forward to working with you on low-carbon strategies, higher blends, and a range of other issues pertaining to the use of ethanol.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Jennings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Brian Jennings, Executive Vice President
American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE)