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ACE Urges Minnesotans to Monitor Tonight's KSTP-TV Report on Ethanol

Sioux Falls, SD (March 1, 2010) – Tonight's 10 o'clock newscast of KSTP-TV in Minneapolis (www.kstp.com) will include an "Eyewitness News Investigates" report on Minnesota's effort to increase the ethanol blend level beyond 10 percent. In the description above the promotional video for the story, the station says it's uncovered "a fight over ethanol, and claims of less gas mileage, unsafe engines and voided warranties."

The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) wants to set the record straight on ethanol, and it is asking Minnesotans to help do the same.

"This looks like it will be another one-sided piece against ethanol that doesn't examine all the facts," said Brian Jennings, Executive Vice President of ACE. "Instead of doing a true investigation of the issues surrounding a move to E20, KSTP-TV appears to be interested in some exaggerated rhetoric from an anti-ethanol lobbyist who does not want to see ethanol use increase. In reality, our efforts to increase the ethanol blend level to E15, E20, and beyond actually preserve consumer choices at the pump by providing options for those choosing fuel for classic cars or small engines. If a small engine owner does not want to use E20, no one will force him or her to do so."

The promotional video for the KSTP-TV story can be seen at <http://kstp.com/article/stories/s1095573.shtml?cat=191>.

The State of Minnesota is conducting testing required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before the state's E10 requirement can be increased to E20. Last spring, the U.S. ethanol industry also applied for a waiver from EPA for E15 to become an approved fuel for use in all vehicles.

"Two things must be kept in mind when discussing these ethanol blend changes. First, thorough testing is required before the government approves any fuels, and they are not going to approve anything that is unsafe for consumers. Second and perhaps most important, consumers will still have choices at the pump. If and when E15 is approved, it is an allowance to use E15 where desired – not a mandate. If and when Minnesota moves to E20, E10 or unleaded gasoline will still be available for classic cars or small engines – just like when the state was the first to make E10 its base fuel more than ten years ago."

The State of Minnesota has completed year-long testing of E20 in standard, non-flex-fuel vehicles, finding that the 20 percent ethanol blend presented no materials compatibility issues for today's vehicles and fuel dispensing equipment. The University of Minnesota and Minnesota State University-Mankato research found E20 to provide power and performance similar to E10, through a broad range of weather conditions (http://www.ethanol.org/pdf/contentmgmt/MN_E20_Executive_Summary.pdf).

An "optimal blend" study done by the Minnesota Center for Automotive Research and the University of North Dakota Energy & Environmental Research Center showed standard vehicles to safely operate on mid-level ethanol blends, and pointed to an optimal blend – likely E20 or E30 – at which vehicles will get better mileage than predicted based strictly on the fuel's per-gallon Btu content (http://www.ethanol.org/pdf/contentmgmt/Press_Release_12507-1.pdf).

ACE represents grassroots ethanol supporters in all 50 states, including many ethanol plants, rural electric cooperatives, agriculture associations, and individuals in Minnesota.

"We are asking our members in Minnesota to contact KSTP-TV prior to the airing of this report, urging the station to give the issue a fair hearing," Jennings said. "If tonight's report ignores the facts, KSTP will be hearing from us."

Those interested can e-mail the TV station at investigative@kstp.com or call the KSTP-TV newsroom at 612-588-6397.

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The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) is the grassroots voice of the U.S. ethanol industry, a national advocacy association for the ethanol industry with nearly 1,500 members nationwide, including farmers, ethanol producers, commodity organizations, businesses supplying goods and services to the ethanol industry, rural electric cooperatives, and individuals supportive of increased production and use of ethanol. For more information about ethanol or ACE, visit www.ethanol.org or call (605) 334-3381.