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**American Coalition for Ethanol Statement on  
Two Studies on Indirect Land Use Change from Biofuels**

**Sioux Falls, SD** (October 23, 2009) – The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) commented on two reports published in the journal *Science* today dealing with the topic of indirect land use change from biofuels.

“Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error,” by Timothy Searchinger et al, was released today in the journal, a proposal to count international emissions against U.S. renewable fuels production. “Indirect Emissions from Biofuels: How Important?” was also published today, by Jerry Melillo et al.

Statement from Brian Jennings, Executive Vice President of ACE:

“Timothy Searchinger is not a scientist, economist, or agronomist who has taken the time necessary to study whether his theories about land use and biofuels are validated by on-the-ground measurements. He’s an attorney who appears to have a political ax to grind against biofuels. New technology makes corn ethanol more efficient and sustainable each and every day, while future sources of oil get less efficient and more harmful to the environment. No fuel source is perfect, but biofuels are superior to fossil fuels, and while Mr. Searchinger may want to put a stop to ethanol, Members of Congress disagree with him and continue to support policies that advance the production and use of biofuels.

One of the major reasons policymakers continue to support biofuels is because of the painful and costly negative consequences of our nation’s reliance on fossil fuels. Biofuels should be recognized for the positive work they do in our new low-carbon future, not penalized according to the theories of ethanol critics. If biofuels and petroleum are compared in an apples-to-apples fashion when it comes to lifecycle analysis and policies, it is crystal clear that while not perfect, biofuels are far better than fossil fuels in reducing carbon emissions. We agree that the environmental impacts of the world’s energy supply need to be considered, but we insist on a fair playing field where biofuels and fossil fuels are judged by the same metrics when counting emissions. If the indirect effects of biofuels are going to be quantified, then so should be the indirect effects – which are many – of protecting, exploring, and processing the world’s petroleum.

Today’s ethanol industry is a story of progress and technical innovation, including the crops used as feedstock. America’s corn growers are making constant progress in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, this year producing an estimated eight percent larger corn crop than last year on only one percent more land. This year’s average expected corn yield is 164 bushels per acre, up a full 10 bushels per acre from last year. Fertilizer use per bushel is trending down, today achieving 70 percent more corn from a pound of fertilizer than they did 35 years ago. Technology advances and widespread conservation practices mean that there is an ample supply of corn for all important uses – food, feed, and fuel.

At the same time corn production and ethanol production are becoming more efficient and sustainable, future sources of oil are becoming more expensive, inefficient, and harmful to the environment. This is the bottom line.”

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*The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) is the grassroots voice of the U.S. ethanol industry, a national trade association for the ethanol industry with 1500 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](http://www.ethanol.org) or call (605) 334-3381.*