

October 14, 2009

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins and Senator Cardin:

We, the undersigned diverse coalition of environmental groups, public health organizations, business associations and public interest organizations, write today to express support of legislation you recently introduced, S. 1666, the "Mid-Level Ethanol Blends Act of 2009." Our organizations applaud your leadership in seeking to affirm a "science-first" policy with respect to mid-level ethanol blends (gasoline blends containing more than 10 percent ethanol, but less than 85 percent, such as E15 or E20). Your legislation would strengthen consumer and environmental protections embedded in the Clean Air Act that require significant testing before a new fuel is introduced, and enable additional, independent scientific evaluation of mid-level ethanol fuels.

We collectively support this approach and stand united in our view that independent, rigorous and verifiable testing showing that mid-level ethanol blends do not pose a risk to gasoline-powered engines, public health, the environment or consumers be completed before any effort to introduce this fuel into commerce is undertaken.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association

American Fly Fishing Trade Association

American Frozen Food Institute

American Lung Association

American Meat Institute

American Sportfishing Association

Americans for Tax Reform

Association for Dressings and Sauces

Association of International Automobile Manufacturers

Association of Marina Industries

Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society (B.A.S.S. /ESPN Outdoors)

Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.)

Butterball, LLC

Center for Auto Safety

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Coastal Conservation

Clean Air Task Force
Clean Air Watch
Coastal Conservation Association
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Competitive Enterprise Institute
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
Defenders of Wildlife
Engine Manufacturers Association
Environmental Working Group
FarmEcon LLC
Friends of the Earth
Grocery Manufacturers Association
International Dairy Foods Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Marine Retailers Association of America
Motorcycle Industry Council, Inc.
National Association of Margarine Manufacturers
National Boating Federation
National Chicken Council
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Turkey Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Personal Watercraft Industry Association
Public Citizen
Safe Climate Campaign
Sierra Club
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Snack Food Association
The Hispanic Institute
Union of Concerned Scientists

cc: Members of the United States Senate