

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1' 2011

## **Coalition of 90 Organizations Opposes Subsidies for Corn Ethanol**

WASHINGTON, DC- A coalition of 90 business associations, taxpayer advocates, hunger and development organizations, agricultural groups, free-market groups, religious organizations, environmental groups, budget hawks, and public interest organizations today sent a letter to Congressional leadership urging Congress to let the refundable Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) expire and to resist calls for spending on infrastructure for conventional biofuels.

In the letter, the coalition says:

“The undersigned diverse group of business associations, taxpayer advocates, hunger and development organizations, agricultural groups, free-market groups, religious organizations, environmental groups, budget hawks, and public interest organizations urge you to allow the refundable Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) to sunset this year and to resist calls for spending on infrastructure for conventional biofuels.

“In particular, Congress has the opportunity to end the \$6 billion a year subsidy to gasoline refiners who blend corn ethanol into gasoline. At a time of spiraling deficits, we do not believe Congress should continue subsidizing gasoline refiners for something that they are already required to do by the Renewable Fuels Standard.

“Experts like the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office have concluded that the subsidy is unnecessary, and leading economists agree that ending it would have little impact on ethanol production, prices or jobs.

“We urge you to let VEETC expire and resist calls for spending on infrastructure for conventional biofuels.”

The following organizations signed the coalition letter:

ActionAid US  
Africa Action  
Africa Faith and Justice  
Alabama Poultry and Egg Association  
Alliance of Western Milk Producers  
American Bakers Association  
American Conservative Union  
American Frozen Food Institute  
Americans for Limited Government  
Americans for Prosperity  
American Jewish World Service

American Meat Institute  
Beyond Pesticides  
California Dairies, Inc.  
California Poultry Federation  
California Safe Schools  
Center for Auto Safety  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Food Safety  
Clean Air Task Force  
Clean Water Action  
Citizens for Tax Justice

Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Competitive Enterprise Institute  
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste  
Dairy Producers of New Mexico  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
Environment America  
Environmental Working Group  
Foreign Policy in Focus  
Freedom Action  
FreedomWorks  
Friends of the Earth  
Heartland Institute  
Georgia Poultry Federation  
Greenpeace USA  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Idaho Dairymen's Association  
Indiana State Poultry Association  
International Center for Technology Assessment  
International Dairy Foods Association  
John Locke Foundation  
KyotoUSA  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
League of Conservation Voters  
Marynoll Office of Global Concern  
Milk Producers Council  
Mississippi Poultry Association  
MoveOn.org  
National Audubon Society  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference  
National Council of Chain Restaurants  
National Chicken Council  
National Meat Association  
National Restaurant Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Taxpayers Union  
National Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice  
Lobby  
North Carolina Poultry Federation  
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance  
Northeast Organic Farming Association --  
Interstate Council (NOFA-IC)  
Northwest Environmental Defense Center  
Northwest Dairy Association  
Oil Change International  
Oxfam America

Partners for the Land & Agricultural Needs of  
Traditional Peoples (PLANT)  
The Poultry Federation  
Public Citizen  
Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)  
Safe Climate Campaign  
The SafeLawns Foundation  
Sierra Club  
Snack Food Association  
Southeast Milk Inc.  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Southern Horticulture  
Taxpayers for Common Sense  
Tennessee Poultry Association  
Texas Poultry Federation  
U.S. Poultry and Egg Association  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth  
Virginia Poultry Federation  
Washington Cattle Feeders Association  
Washington State Dairy Federation  
The Watershed Partnership  
World Wildlife Fund