

March 1, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Allow the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit to Expire

Dear Congressional Leaders:

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.

Sincerely,

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
 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
 MoveOn.org
 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