November 29, 2010

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
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 John Boehner
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, hunger and development organizations, taxpayer advocates, agricultural 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.

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 no longer necessary, and leading economists agree that ending it would have little impact on ethanol production, prices or jobs.

Letting the VEETC expire will help control deficit spending without in any way hindering the development of advanced biofuels, which can help us meet our energy, environmental and food security needs in a fiscally responsible manner.

Sincerely,
ActionAid US  
Africa Action  
Africa Faith and Justice Network  
American Bakers Association  
American Conservative Union  
American Meat Institute  
American Frozen Food Institute  
California Dairies, Inc.  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Food Safety  
Clean Air Task Force  
Clean Water Action  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Competitive Enterprise Institute  
Dairy Producers of New Mexico  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
Earth Day Network  
Environment America  
Environmental Working Group  
Foreign Policy in Focus  
FreedomWorks  
Friends of the Earth  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Heartland Institute  
Idaho Dairymen's Association  
International Center for Technology Assessment  
International Dairy Foods Association  
KyotoUSA  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious League of Conservation Voters  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Milk Producers Council  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
MoveOn  
National Audubon Society  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference  
National Chicken Council  
National Council of Chain Restaurants  
National Meat Association  
National Taxpayers Union  
National Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Oxen Dairy Farmers Association  
Oxfam America  
PLANT (Partners for the Land and Agricultural Needs of Traditional Peoples)  
Pew Environment Group  
Public Citizen  
Safe Climate Campaign  
Sierra Club  
Snack Food Association  
Taxpayers for Common Sense  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth  
Washington Cattle Feeders Association  
Washington State Dairy Federation  
World Wildlife Fund

CC: United States House of Representatives and United States Senate