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EPA Greenlights Ethanol Increase in Fuel Blend

Growth Energy: EPA Decision the “First Crack in the Blend Wall” But More Must be Done to Reduce Dependence on Foreign Oil

WASHINGTON, DC – Growth Energy today embraced as an “important first step” the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision to raise the blend wall from E10 to E15 for 2007 and newer vehicles, in response to Growth Energy’s Green Jobs petition. However, the coalition of U.S. ethanol supporters said much more must be done to reduce America’s dependence on foreign oil, create jobs here in the United States and improve our environment.

Today’s decision will apply to more than 42 million vehicles – about 20 percent of the current fleet of passenger cars and light-duty trucks in the U.S., all 2007 and newer. In November, after engine testing on those models is completed, EPA is expected to decide whether to approve E15 for vehicles 2001 to 2006. Approval of those 86 million cars and trucks would mean that E15 would be allowed in more than half of the total passenger cars and light-duty trucks on the road today.

The existing E10 standard – which permits up to 10 percent ethanol blended into fuel – was set in the 1970s to help spur the growth of a domestic, renewable fuels industry in answer to America’s first major oil crisis, engineered by OPEC. In March 2009, Growth Energy filed a petition with EPA to permit the raising of that regulatory cap on the ethanol blend from 10 percent to 15 percent.

“Today’s approval of E15 for newer vehicles is the first crack in the blend wall in more than 30 years, and proves what was laid out in Growth Energy’s Green Jobs Waiver – that E15 is a good fuel for American motorists. And while this is an important first step, there are many more steps we can take toward strengthening our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, creating jobs here in the United States and improving our environment,” Tom Buis, CEO of Growth Energy, said.

“Extensive testing from government, industry and academia proves there is no reason to limit E15 to only 2007 and newer vehicles. We urge the EPA to quickly follow today’s announcement with the approval of E15 for all vehicles, so that the American people can choose a blend of fuel that is proven to be better for our economy, our security and our environment.”



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According to the U.S. Department of Energy, every billion gallons of American ethanol produced will create 10,000 to 20,000 jobs that can never be outsourced. Today, America has the capacity to produce up to 12 billion gallons of ethanol every year, at more than 170 plants across the country. These plants are mostly in rural communities, where they provide many high-tech, well paying, much-needed green jobs, adding millions of dollars to local and state revenue.

There are 12 ethanol plants in Kansas. These ethanol plants produce over 500 million gallons of fuel per year. It is estimated that Kansas ethanol plants assist in providing over 4,000 jobs throughout Kansas and have contributed to over \$170 million back in to the local economies.

“ICM has always believed in the contributions of American agriculture, which has historically translated into creating a strong economy and boundless opportunities that it brings to all of us,” says ICM CEO and Growth Energy board member Dave Vander Griend. “Recognizing Growth Energy’s leadership in seeking to permit the raising of the regulatory cap that was imposed several decades ago, we proudly signed onto and supported Growth Energy’s Green Jobs Waiver because it laid the foundation for reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil, creating and sustaining jobs right here at home, and delivering positive public health benefits for our fellow Americans.”

“We’re positively encouraged by the EPA’s critical first step in its decision to raise the blend wall from E10 to E15 for 2007 and newer vehicles. We also believe based upon the extensive testing from several government, industry and academic sectors that by the end of the year EPA will expand approval of E15 to include vehicles 2001 to 2006. According to EPA data, gasoline is the largest source of manmade carcinogens. Direct particle emissions from transportation are in fact more dangerous to the general public on exposure effects alone, so by penetrating the blend wall to provide E15, we can deliver a larger supply of clean burning, high octane fuel that can effectively mitigate the adverse health effects of harmful gasoline. We look forward to working with the EPA to provide the consumers with a choice of a blend of fuel that is scientifically proven to improve our economy, create jobs here that cannot be outsourced, and reduce chronic public health challenges such as asthma, heart attack, heart and lung disease – that affect folks of all ages, including our children which are America’s future.”

Today’s modern ethanol industry supports U.S. jobs by producing a renewable, domestic fuel that is at least 59 percent cleaner than conventional gasoline. By allowing E15 as an option on the market, the U.S. could create 136,000 new jobs, decrease carbon emissions equivalent to removing 1.35 million vehicles from American roads, displace as much as 7 billion gallons of gasoline from imported oil and expand the market-demand necessary to help make cellulosic ethanol commercially viable.

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About Growth Energy



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Growth Energy is a group committed to the promise of agriculture and growing America's economy through cleaner, greener energy. Growth Energy members recognize America needs a new ethanol approach. Through smart policy reform and a proactive grassroots campaign, Growth Energy promotes reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expanding the use of ethanol in gasoline, decreasing our dependence on foreign oil, and creating American jobs at home. More information can be found at GrowthEnergy.org.