

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 20, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Please join us as a co-sponsor of S. 1994, the "Fuel Security and Consumer Choice Act." We introduced this important legislation last year as another component of a broad policy initiative designed to significantly reduce our nation's dependence on imported petroleum.

Currently virtually all vehicles sold in the United States can be operated with low percentage blends of renewable fuel. Typically this is sold as a 90% gasoline, 10% ethanol blend. However, technology already exists that allows high level renewable fuel blends to be utilized and is both inexpensive and easily integrated in current manufacturing techniques.

There are nearly 5 million flexible fuel vehicles operating in the U.S. today. These vehicles can use straight gasoline, or an 85% ethanol blend with no modifications. Yet this is a very small percentage of the domestic fleet.

Our legislation would require that all vehicles sold in the U.S. be able to utilize high levels of renewable fuel within the next 10 years. Increasing the number of these vehicles in the marketplace will continue to stimulate production of non-petroleum based fuels, as well as rapidly expanding the distribution infrastructure.

The legislation also alters the calculation for the dual-fuel CAFE credit so that there is no harm done to vehicle fuel economy standards.

Robust production, distribution, and use of domestically produced renewable fuels can and will displace foreign oil to which great economic and security hazards are tied. Providing citizens with a choice at the fuel pump is a prudent step as our nation faces an impending energy crisis and the increased potential for world turmoil associated with it.

This legislation has been endorsed by a wide array of groups including the Set America Free Coalition, Renewable Fuels Association, American Coalition for Ethanol, Union of Concerned Scientists, Alliance to Save Energy, and the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy.

To co-sponsor, or if you have questions, please contact Lloyd Ritter with Senator Harkin at x44523 or Aaron Whitesel with Senator Lugar at x44814.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Richard Lugar
United States Senator