



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

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JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

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July 7, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Air and Radiation Docket ID no. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-2011
Mailcode: 6102T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The nation's ethanol industry is a bright spot in our economy, revitalizing rural communities by providing jobs and creating additional markets for corn growers. I would like to urge the EPA to approve an increase in the amount of ethanol that can be blended in conventional gasoline beyond the current 10 percent level. The current cap threatens to block forward movement of the renewable fuels industry, including research and development in second generation biofuels such as cellulosic ethanol.

By utilizing a renewable resource, the nation's ethanol industry is reducing our dependence on foreign oil, keeping billions of dollars right here in the United States. The positive economic return that this homegrown industry is generating should not be stymied due to a blend rate cap of 10 percent. Increasing the blend capacity to 15 percent will create more than 136,000 jobs, inject \$24.4 billion into the U.S. economy, displace seven billion gallons of imported gasoline per year and reduce greenhouse gases by 20 million tons per year.

Blending higher percentages of ethanol into our gasoline supply can create American jobs, increase energy independence, improve our environment and help revitalize our struggling economy. I strongly urge the EPA to allow the increase that will provide future opportunity for this renewable, domestic energy source that is good for our communities, the environment and our national security.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremiah W. Nixon".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor