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***Midwestern Governors Call on EPA to  
Increase Ethanol Blending Levels***

**Washington, D.C.** – Ten Midwestern governors recently wrote to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson requesting that ethanol blending levels be increased to 15 percent. The letter comes as the EPA considers this change to federal rules. Under current EPA regulations, alcohol-gasoline is limited at 10 percent by volume in unleaded gasoline.

Allowing greater blending levels will increase demand for conventional ethanol, an entirely domestic energy source. The 2007 renewable fuel standard (RFS) sets national goals for the amount of biofuels used in the country. These mandated levels in the RFS act as a valuable tool in moving toward advanced biofuels, including cellulosic ethanol. However, without increasing the blending levels, the ability to meet the RFS is exceedingly difficult.

“The Midwest has vast natural resources, the scientific know-how, and the skilled workforce necessary to lead the world in the production of climate-friendly biofuels,” said Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, chair of the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA). “We must capitalize on these strengths in order to promote the use of low carbon fuels across the country.”

“Increasing the amount of ethanol blended into gasoline is an important step that will have dramatic, positive effects on advancement of the renewable fuels industry,” said South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds, immediate past chair of the MGA. “In addition to economic benefits, increased use of ethanol and biofuels will lead to greater energy independence by utilizing homegrown commodities, materials and technologies.”

In addition to Rounds and Granholm, the letter was signed by Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, Iowa Gov. Chester J. Culver, Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland and Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle. The Midwestern Governors Association is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings together the governors of the region states to work cooperatively on public policy issues of significance to the Midwest.

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