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Contact: Emily Marthaler

202-367-1112

***MGA Applauds EPA for E15 Registration Decision; Encourages Collaboration to Implement E15***

The Midwest Governors Association (MGA) applauds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its recent decision regarding the safety of E15 and moving the implementation of E15 as a choice for consumers one-step closer to reality.

In February, the EPA approved the next step needed to bring this valuable domestic energy source to market by confirming that E15 satisfies the emissions and health effects data requirement. This decision builds upon earlier decisions in October 2010 and January 2011 in which, EPA said that E15 posed no mechanical problems for all cars, pickups and SUVs made in model year 2001 and later. These vehicles represent nearly 70 percent of the auto fleet and more than 75 percent of the fuel consumed, according to Growth Energy<sup>1</sup>.

With this approval, biofuel producers and fuel blenders can now apply for fuel registration with EPA. Registration is not complete until the application is approved by EPA.

The Midwest is the nation's top biofuels industry cluster and this home-grown energy source spurs economic opportunities in Midwestern states, including high-paying jobs and increased incomes for the region's innovative and productive farmers. While the biofuels industry is a big part of the Midwestern economy, the entire country continues to benefit from its production with lower fuel prices, increased exports, cleaner burning fuel and a decreased reliance on overseas oil.

"The biofuels industry helps increase domestic clean energy production – creating jobs and economic vitality throughout the Midwest. Biofuels help decrease fuel costs for Midwestern families and help diversify our nation's energy portfolio," said Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, Chair of the MGA. "I look forward to working with my fellow governors to further national implementation of E15."

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, MGA Vice Chair, said, "The Midwest has been a global leader in the development of biofuels. As other regions of the country begin to develop their own biobased resources, the Midwest must continue its legacy of innovative approaches to energy development. Implementing E15 is a first, vital step in the right direction."

In June 2011, the MGA released a fact sheet debunking many of the inaccurate myths regarding ethanol and biofuels. Earlier this year, the MGA released recommendations of its Advanced Transportation Advisory Group, which included a fact sheet outlining pathways to E15 implementation.

State, regional and public/private partnerships will assist in expediting the commercialization of E15. No two states have the same regulatory structure, and the details of permitting the use of E15 vary from state to state. For more information on fuel registration with EPA, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/fuels/registrationfuels/index.htm>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.growthenergy.org/about-growth-energy/growth-energy-faq/>