

Governors' Ethanol Coalition

2001

June 21,

Honorable David Garman
Assistant Secretary of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Garman:

On behalf of the Governors' Ethanol Coalition, I would like to express our appreciation for the support that the Office of Fuels Development and the Office of Transportation Technologies have given the ethanol industry. Under the direction of John Ferrell and David Rogers respectively, these offices have sponsored programs that have met or exceeded the Coalition's expectations.

New technology is the cornerstone of improved efficiency and air quality in the transportation sector, and ethanol serves as a critical solution in these groundbreaking technologies. The research and development efforts over the past decade have succeeded in reducing the cost of producing biomass ethanol by nearly 65 percent, significantly enhancing the commercial viability of emerging technologies.

Many of the programs have a long-term outlook, investigating more advanced ethanol conversion technologies and supporting important outreach and educational efforts such as the Regional Biomass Energy Program. Through the regional programs, states can identify and facilitate local partnerships, coordinate educational workshops, disseminate information, and engage in other activities to promote ethanol's production and use.

Continuing high gas prices and increased demand for ethanol mean these efforts are needed more now than ever. With the Department of Energy's support, advances in cellulosic ethanol can be achieved

more quickly, increasing ethanol's supply and insulating consumers against future gas price spikes. The Coalition appreciates the Department's continued commitment to developing ethanol and renewable energy resources.

Sincerely,

Mike Johanns
Governor of Nebraska and Chair

c. Bonny Overton
U.S. Dept. of Energy, EE-3.1