

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 2009

Honorable John Hoeven, Chair
Honorable Chet Culver, Vice Chair
Governors' Biofuels Coalition
P.O. Box 94922
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Governor Hoeven and Governor Culver:

I appreciate the excellent work that the Governors' Biofuels Coalition has been doing to educate policy makers and the public about the importance of transitioning the nation from its reliance on a petroleum-dependent transportation fuels sector to a sustainable, low carbon energy future. Earlier this month I issued a Presidential Biofuels Directive, and you should know that the suggestions outlined in your letter of February 17, 2009 were very helpful in the development of that initiative.

Advanced renewable transportation fuels will be one of the nation's most important industries in the 21st Century. Combined with improved energy efficiency, biofuels are the primary near-term option for insulating consumers against future oil price shocks and for lowering the transportation sector's carbon footprint. The direct consumer benefit has been well documented and producing and using more biofuels today means an immediate reduction in oil imports in addition to an immediate increase in domestic employment.

As you well know, the nation's biofuels industry today uses the starch portion of feedgrains as its primary feedstock, which has focused debate on how to accurately measure the greenhouse gas effect of corn-based ethanol. What is often underappreciated in this debate is that the industry is moving toward the utilization of a wide variety of non-grain feedstocks for biofuels.

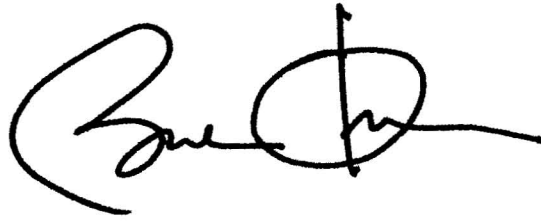
My Administration is committed to moving as quickly as possible to commercialize an array of emerging cellulosic technologies so that tomorrow's biofuels will be produced from sustainable biomass feedstocks and waste materials rather than corn. But this transition will be successful only if the first-generation biofuels industry remains viable in the near-term, and if we remove long-standing artificial barriers to market expansion necessary for large volumes of advanced renewable fuels to find a place in America's transportation fuels system.

I know you share my commitment to advanced biofuels research and commercialization, and understand the important economic development role that

biofuels has in each of your member states and nationwide. It is my hope that the Presidential Biofuels Directive will lead to new jobs, new businesses and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

I welcome your suggestions as you work with members of my cabinet to implement the directive. This is a significant undertaking for the nation's biofuels future, and your collaborative partnership is important to its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is centered below the word "Sincerely,".