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- International alliances with Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Sweden and Thailand -

June 9, 2005

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the thirty members of the Governors’ Ethanol Coalition, we strongly support and endorse the National Security and Bioenergy Investment Act of 2005, as well as your efforts to expand development of other biofuels and co-products. The Governors’ Ethanol Coalition is pleased that this bill embodies the recommendations developed by the Coalition in Ethanol From Biomass: America’s 21st Century Transportation Fuel. When signed into law, this act will catalyze needed research, production, and use of biofuels and bio-based products, thereby enhancing our economic, environmental, and national security.

The Coalition believes that the nation’s dependency on imported oil presents a huge risk to this country’s future. The combination of political tensions in major oil-producing nations with growing oil demand from China and India is seriously threatening our national security. Moreover, as we import greater amounts of oil each year, we are draining more and more of the wealth from our states.

The key provisions contained in your bill bring focus and resources to biomass-derived ethanol research and commercialization efforts. The result, over time, will be the replacement of significant amounts of imported oil with domestically produced fuels — improving our rural economies, cleaning our air, and contributing to our national security. Of particular importance is the bill’s aim to broaden ethanol production to include all regions of the nation so that many more states will reap the benefits of biofuels.

Again, thank you for inclusion of the Coalition’s recommendations in this landmark legislation. Please let us know how the Coalition can help with the passage of this very important legislation. The continued expansion of ethanol production and use, particularly biomass-derived fuels, and the accompanying economic growth and environmental benefits for our states is essential to the nation’s long-term economic vitality and national security.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty, Chair
Governor of Minnesota

Kathleen Sebelius, Vice Chair
Governor of Kansas

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