Dear Governor Pawlenty and Governor Sebelius:

Thank you very much for your September 8 invitation to join the Governors’ Ethanol Coalition. I would be honored to join such a distinguished and forward thinking group of my colleagues and I gladly accept your invitation. I am especially proud to be the first Governor from the Northeast to join the Coalition.

Throughout our Administration, I have placed a priority on developing policies that will lead to greater use and market acceptance of renewable energy. Ethanol is a great example of how renewable energy is better for the environment, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create market opportunities for our farmers and foster rural economic development—and perhaps most importantly, reduce our reliance on imported petroleum.

I believe New York’s inclusion in the Coalition will raise awareness about the benefits of ethanol among our substantial driving population and within the New York City investment community. Likewise, the Coalition can help New York as we begin production of ethanol from corn at as many as three planned ethanol plants within the next year, and eventually from cellulosic sources like grass and woody biomass. One of these facilities, Northeast Biofuels, will have a capacity of 100 million gallons per year, making it the largest ethanol plant in the Northeast. This plant, combined with other ethanol and biodiesel refineries, will help New York meet its energy needs with clean, renewable fuels, while reducing our nation’s dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Again, I am honored and pleased to have New York become the 32nd member of the Governors’ Ethanol Coalition, and I look forward to interacting with you as we work towards expanding the production and use of ethanol for the benefit of our states and the nation.

Very truly yours,

The Honorable Tim Pawlenty, Chair
The Honorable Kathy Sebelius, Vice-Chair
Governors’ Ethanol Coalition
P.O. Box 95085
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