



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

MAR 17 2009

Dr. James R. Moseley
Chair
Farm, Ranch, and Rural
Communities Committee
7418 East Countyline Road South
Clarks Hill, Indiana 47930

Dear Dr. Moseley:

I thank you and the members of the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee for writing and for providing comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Draft Biofuel Strategy.

The Agency steering committee overseeing completion of this document informed me that they have reviewed the FRRCC letter. Based on the FRRCC's comments, as well as the input of other external reviewers, significant modifications to the draft document have been made. Specifically, in consideration of several key overarching comments by both the FRRCC and the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, the Draft Biofuel Strategy has been appropriately refocused into an EPA Coordinating Framework. The CF's goal is to promote and enhance intra-agency activities that anticipate and respond to existing and future potentially significant environmental impacts across the biofuel system. Another goal of the CF is to propose management recommendations, actions, and research necessary to support a sustainable biofuel system.

The CF intends to guide coordination of EPA's cross-Agency multi-media responsibilities with regard to biofuels. Since biofuel production and use impact nearly all EPA programs and regions, effective coordination across all programs is vital for the Agency to accomplish its mission of protecting public health and the environment. The recommendations and actions included in the revised CF are essential and urgent if EPA is to fulfill its mission, including meeting current and new legislative mandates as well as related emerging issues. Establishing this CF emphasizes the need for strong cooperation and coordination across the Agency, as well as with federal, state, and other stakeholders. This is the foundation from which the Agency can develop and implement more effective and protective strategies.

With regard to the specific comments provided in the attachment to your letter, they will be valuable in informing our current and future efforts in developing the proposed rule to

implement the national Renewable Fuels Standard program as mandated under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

I thank the members of the FRRCC for their time, considerable efforts, and support. The expertise, perspective, and guidance your committee offers will be of great value to the Agency in helping us meet our important mission.

Again, thank you, and I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you and to hear your perspective and advice regarding these and other important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Jackson', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Lisa P. Jackson

cc: Sally Shaver
Alan Hecht
Paul Argyropoulos
Alicia Kaiser