



May 15, 2009

Administrator Lisa Jackson
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

I am writing on behalf of the National Sorghum Producers to urge the EPA to approve an increase above 10 percent in the amount of ethanol that can be blended in conventional gasoline.

Sorghum is the second largest source of grain-based ethanol in the United States. Sorghum is a water sipping, low fertilizer use crop that can be grown in semi-arid areas of the United States. This environmentally friendly crop has significantly contributed to the growth of the ethanol industry in the Great Plains area.

Sorghum's conversion rate to ethanol is the same as corn and it is processed into ethanol under the same practices as corn. Ethanol plants do not need to alter, retrofit or upgrade their processes in order to make sorghum-based ethanol. Grain sorghum is qualified as an advanced biofuels feedstock according to the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

In addition, sweet sorghum and high biomass forage sorghum are promising feedstocks for next generation biofuels. Raising the ethanol blend limit will allow and encourage production of these next generation technologies which will ultimately play a huge role in the nation's energy independence, all while providing dedicated energy crops.

The National Sorghum Producers is proud of the role sorghum growers have played in producing feedstocks for ethanol. Sorghum producers are good stewards of the land they farm and the resources necessary to grow their crops. Growers have produced more than enough grain for our traditional customers and export while providing domestically produced energy for our nation at the same time. Ethanol production has not only helped the sorghum industry, but plants across the Great Plains provide good jobs in rural communities.

The success achieved by the ethanol industry thus far should not be halted due to a blend rate cap of 10 percent. The blend rate should be increased to provide an opportunity for this industry to continue to produce a renewable domestic energy source that is good for sorghum farmers, the environment, our national security and rural communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

Toby Bostwick
Chairman of the Board
National Sorghum Producers