

**Audubon * Chesapeake Climate Action Network * Clean Air Task Force
Clean Water Action * Defenders of Wildlife * Earthjustice * Ecology Center
Environment America * Environmental Working Group * Friends of the Earth
Food First * League of Conservation Voters * Natural Resources Defense Council
Pew Environment Group * Southern Environmental Law Center * Sierra Club
Union of Concerned Scientists * The Wilderness Society * World Wildlife Fund**

Chairman Henry Waxman
2204 House Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Collin Peterson
2212 House Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Edward Markey
2108 House Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2009

Dear Chairmen Peterson, Markey, and Waxman,

On behalf of our millions of members, activists and contributors, we write to express our staunch support for the inclusion of emissions from indirect land-use change in the life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions from biofuels in the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). We strongly oppose H.R. 2409, and any other attempt to undermine the accounting of the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with biofuels. Without full and accurate accounting, it would be unjustifiable to go forward with the RFS mandate beyond 2009 levels. Moreover, if the full global warming impacts of biofuels were ignored, our organizations would no longer be able to support biofuels as part of a clean energy future.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) mandates that biofuels perform better than gasoline on a full lifecycle assessment of greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions from indirect land use change. Proposal's like those in H.R. 2409 would strip the critical requirement that EPA include the greenhouse gas emission impacts of indirect land use change. As a result, this bill would ignore the carbon emissions from clearing of native grasslands and forests that are exacerbated by the production of biofuels. This allows biofuels that contribute more to global warming than petroleum to qualify for the RFS, thus undermining the nation's ability to reduce the pollution that causes global warming.

Agriculture and forestry are poised to be leaders in sustainable climate solutions and this represents an historic opportunity for rural development. But to realize this opportunity we need policies built on sound science, and science supports the inclusion of indirect land-use change in the assessment of biofuels. The EPA is currently using the best available science to implement the RFS and is evaluating the impacts of biofuels in an open and transparent way. That process should be respected and allowed to proceed to completion. H.R. 2409 would prejudice the outcome of this rigorous process and remove an essential tool to ensuring we do not make global warming worse. We urge you not to proceed with any proposal that would short circuit the lifecycle assessment in existing law. We need your support to continue to move forward on curbing global warming.

Sincerely,

Betsy Loyless
Senior Vice President
Audubon

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Michelle Robinson
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Michael Francis
Acting Vice President of Public Policy
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Lou Leonard
Director, US Climate Policy
World Wildlife Fund

CC:
Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Leader Steny Hoyer