

**American Bird Conservancy * Center for Biological Diversity * Center for Food Safety
Clean Air Task Force * Clean Water Action * Defenders of Wildlife
Environment America * Environmental Working Group * Environmental Defense Fund
Earthjustice * EcoLaw * Ecology Center * Friends of the Earth
Friends Committee on National Legislation * Greenpeace
The Humane Society of the United States * League of Conservation Voters
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns * National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation * Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy * Pew Environment Group * Rural Coalition * Sierra Club
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy * Southern Environmental Law Center
Union of Concerned Scientists * The Wilderness Society * WHY (World Hunger Year)
World Wildlife Fund**

June 22, 2009

**RE: Reject Weakening of Global Warming Standards for Biofuels from Appropriations
Amendments (Terry Amendment)**

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members and activists, we strongly urge you to oppose any attempt to sidestep the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) process to assess the full lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of biofuels (including emissions from indirect land-use change) through the appropriations process. These backdoor attempts to prevent EPA from conducting this analysis would stop the use of solid scientific analysis to guide biofuels policy. **We urge you to oppose any amendment that would prevent EPA from moving forward with its peer-reviewed scientific process.**

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) mandated a massive ramp up in the production of biofuels and required that these biofuels perform better than gasoline on a full lifecycle assessment of greenhouse gas emissions. This analysis included emissions from indirect land-use change. Scientific research continues to demonstrate that biofuel policies, like the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), would accelerate global warming if the policy shifts farmland or forests from food and fiber production to biofuels feedstock production.

There are tremendous opportunities for agriculture and forestry to contribute to sustainable climate solutions, but these solutions must be based on a sound scientific process. Science supports the inclusion of indirect land-use change in the assessment of biofuels. Removing the funding to promulgate biofuels emissions regulations will prevent EPA from completing its ongoing scientific review process on indirect land-use emissions from biofuels. Instead of blocking sound science, rigorous analysis is needed to encourage the production of biofuels that reduce global warming pollution on a full lifecycle basis. Blocking funding for EPA's greenhouse gas emission analysis would prejudice the science and ignore greenhouse gas

emissions that result from clearing native grasslands and forests due to biofuels production. This could undermine the nation's efforts to reduce global warming pollution, since biofuels with higher emissions than petroleum would still qualify for the RFS.

Our organizations strongly oppose any provision that would prevent EPA from conducting a full lifecycle assessment of the greenhouse gas emission standards from biofuels in the Renewable Fuels Standard. The EPA, through its rulemaking process, 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. Stopping this process weakens the global warming standards and is an affront to the best and most recent science available. We ask that you oppose any provision that would block funding for EPA to implement a full greenhouse gas lifecycle analysis of biofuels.

Sincerely,

Darin C. Schroeder
Vice President of Conservation Advocacy
American Bird Conservancy

Anna Aurilio
Washington DC Office Director
Environment America

Bill Snape
Senior Counsel
Center for Biological Diversity

Elizabeth Thompson
Legislative Director
Environmental Defense Fund

Andrew Kimbrell
Executive Director
Center for Food Safety

Sandra Schubert, JD, MA
Director of Government Affairs
Environmental Working Group

Jonathan Lewis
Attorney
Clean Air Task Force

Martin Hayden
Vice President of Policy and Legislation
Earthjustice

Lynn Thorp
National Campaigns Coordinator
Clean Water Action

Charles Griffith
Clean Car Campaign Director
Ecology Center

Mary Beth Beetham
Director of Legislative Affairs
Defenders of Wildlife

Erich Pica
Director of Domestic Programs
Friends of the Earth

Margaret E. Sheehan
Attorney at Law
EcoLaw

Ruth Flower
Legislative Director
Friends Committee on National Legislation

Rolf Skar
Senior Forest Campaigner
Greenpeace

Mimi Brody
Director of Federal Affairs
The Humane Society of the United States
Tiernen Sittenfeld
Legislative Director
League of Conservation Voters

Marie Dennis
Director
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Mike Daulton
Legislative Director
National Audubon Society

Julie M. Sibbing
Director, Global Warming, Agriculture &
Wildlife
National Wildlife Federation

Franz Matzner
Acting Legislative Director
Natural Resources Defense Council

Robert Bendick
Director of US Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy

Karen Steuer
Director, Government Operations
Pew Environment Group

Susmita Pendurthi
Field Projects/Conservation Manager
Rural Coalition

CC: House of Representatives

Ann Mesnikoff
Director, Green Transportation Campaign
Sierra Club

Anne Blair
Program Manager, Clean Diesel & Bioenergy
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Nat Mund
Legislative Director
Southern Environmental Law Center

Michelle Robinson
Director, Clean Vehicles Program
Union of Concerned Scientists

David Moulton
Director, Climate Policy & Conservation
Funding
The Wilderness Society

Christina Schiavoni
Co-Director, Global Movements Program
WHY (World Hunger Year)

Lou Leonard
Director - US Climate Policy
World Wildlife Fund

Individuals
Michael O'Hare, Prof. of Public Policy
Goldman School of Public Policy
Affiliate, Energy & Resources Group
University of California - Berkeley