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June 9, 2009

The Honorable Pat Kreitlow
The Honorable Scott Suder
Special Committee on Domestic Biofuels
State of Wisconsin Joint Legislative Council
P.O. Box 2536
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2536

Dear Pat and Scott:

Thank you very much for sharing your suggestions regarding federal policy on biofuels. I value your correspondence and welcome the opportunity to work with you and your committee on this important issue for our state.

I believe our nation must implement a sensible national energy policy which emphasizes greater energy conservation and efficiency. We must also look broadly for alternative fuels and better technologies that will promote both economic growth and environmental protection. As you know, the Senate took a step toward reducing our nation's dependence on oil by passing, with my support, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. This legislation increases fuel economy standards and encourages the development of alternative energy, including ethanol and other domestic resources. While ethanol fuel is still a small part of overall gasoline consumption, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated that ethanol has led to improvements in air quality, including a 30% reduction in toxic vehicle emissions.

I am encouraged by Wisconsin entrepreneurs who are working on some energy alternatives such as animal waste digesters (which turn waste into useable fuel) and other processes to transform timber wastes and other cellulose into energy. We should make sure that the most cost-effective, efficient options are given every opportunity to succeed.

Once again, thank you for contacting me, and I look forward to crossing paths with you in Wisconsin in the near future.

All the best,

Herb Kohl
United States Senator

HK:nxb

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