



## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

### *The Cellulosic Ethanol Development and Implementation Act*

#### H.R. 395 Salazar

#### S. 167 Boxer

An act to amend the Clean Air Act requiring the Secretary of Energy to provide grants to eligible entities for research, development, and demonstration projects of cellulosic ethanol. Grants also support construction of infrastructure, enabling retail gas stations to dispense cellulosic ethanol for vehicle fuel, reducing the consumption of petroleum-based fuel.

#### BACKGROUND

America's dependence on a dwindling supply of fossil fuels has severe negative impacts on our society. Automobiles in the United States are responsible for approximately 11% of all world oil consumption. Impacts related to fossil fuel use in automobiles include, but are not limited to:

- **Climate change.** Automobiles in the US annually emit nearly 1.5 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, the chief pollutant responsible for global warming.
- **Degraded human health.** Automobile emissions create smog, which lead to respiratory illness and eye irritation.
- **Detrimental economic impacts.** As demand for oil increases, and supply continues to decrease, prices will escalate. The price of oil is susceptible to volatile price spikes, and has jumped to more than \$70 per barrel.
- **Increased dependence on foreign oil.** Nearly 70% of oil consumed in the US is from foreign sources. Dependence on foreign oil is a detriment to our economy and threatens national security.

#### JUSTIFICATION

The United States must look to clean, renewable, and domestic energy sources to diversify the current fuel mix for the millions of automobiles in our nation. Biofuels can be produced domestically, burn cleaner than traditional fossil fuels, and are created from renewable sources.

Cellulosic ethanol is a renewable biofuel, and is the same product as corn based ethanol, but it is produced from a wide variety of cellulosic biomass feedstocks. Sources include agricultural plant wastes, plant wastes from industrial processes, as well as energy crops grown specifically for fuel production, such as switchgrass and willow.

Cellulosic ethanol is not currently viable for use in motor vehicles. **The Cellulosic Ethanol Development and Implementation Act of 2007 (H.R. 395 / S. 167)** will provide necessary research and development, as well as the infrastructure, to bring cellulosic ethanol on the market.

## **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

- 1) Provides grants to public, private, academic, and non-profits sectors for research, development, and demonstration projects relating to the use of cellulosic ethanol for fuel or motor vehicles.
  - a. Eligible entity must match 20% of the of the total grant
  - b. Authorized at \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal years 2007 – 2013
  
- 2) Provide grants for installing infrastructure (such as pumps) that would enable retail gas stations to sell and dispense cellulosic ethanol fuel
  - a. Eligible entity must match 20% of the total grant
  - b. Authorized at \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal years 2007 – 2013
  
- 3) Provide assistance for conversion to cellulosic ethanol
  - a. Authorized at \$400,000,000 for fiscal years 2007 - 2010

*Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member, non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization working to protect public health and the natural environment in New York State and Connecticut*

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**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS RENEWABLE  
FUELS DEVELOPMENT AND URGES CONGRESS TO ENACT *THE  
CELLULOSIC ETHANOL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF  
2007 H.R. 395 / S. 167***