

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2009

PRESIDENT OBAMA RENEWS PUSH FOR BIOFUELS

GOOD NEWS FOR CANADA

Ottawa – The Canadian Renewable Fuels Association (CRFA) today welcomed US President Obama’s renewed push for the increased use of ethanol and biodiesel as good news for the Canadian renewable fuels industry.

“This is good news for Canada. President Obama’s biofuels directive will create new markets and opportunities for Canadian farmers and Canadian biofuel producers,” said Gordon Quaiattini, President of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association. “Renewable fuels in Canada are creating new sustainable green jobs, revitalizing rural communities, helping reduce harmful greenhouse gases (GHGs), and offering consumers new choice at the pump.”

“Every year, new advances in technologies for making renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel are opening up even more opportunities and offer more economic and social benefits,” added Quaiattini.

Below please find the unedited USDA Press Release.

For more information please contact:

CRFA: (613) 594-5528 or visit www.greenfuels.org

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Contact: Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

PRESIDENT OBAMA ISSUES PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE TO USDA TO EXPAND ACCESS TO BIOFUELS

USDA, EPA and DOE form Biofuels Interagency Working Group to increase energy independence

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 5, 2009) - President Obama issued a presidential directive today to Secretary Vilsack to aggressively accelerate the investment in and production of biofuels. On a conference call with Energy Secretary Stephen Chu and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, Vilsack also announced that he will help lead an unprecedented interagency effort to increase America's energy independence and spur rural economic development.

"President Obama's announcement today demonstrates his deep commitment to establishing a permanent biofuels industry in America," said Vilsack. "Expanding our biofuels infrastructure provides a unique opportunity

to spur rural economic development while reducing our dependence on foreign oil - one of the great challenges of the 21st century."

Increasing renewable fuels will reduce dependence on foreign oil by more than 297 million barrels a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 160 million tons a year when fully phased in by 2022. On the call, Jackson announced that the EPA would establish four categories of renewable fuels, some of which would be produced from new sources. To address lifecycle analysis, the EPA said they are soliciting peer reviewed, scientific feedback to ensure that the best science available is utilized prior to implementation.

"Producing clean, renewable energy in our country is a powerful rural development tool that creates jobs domestically while generating new tax revenues for local, state, and federal governments," added Vilsack.

President Obama directed Secretary Vilsack to expedite and increase production of and investment in biofuel development efforts by:

- * Refinancing existing investments in renewable fuels to preserve jobs in ethanol and biodiesel plants, renewable electricity generation plants, and other supporting industries; and

- * Making renewable energy financing opportunities from the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 available within 30 days. These opportunities include:

- * Loan guarantees for the development, construction, and retrofitting of commercial scale biorefineries and grants to help pay for the development and construction costs of demonstration-scale biorefineries;

- * Expedited funding to encourage biorefineries to replace the use of fossil fuels in plant operations by installing new biomass energy systems or producing new energy from renewable biomass;

- * Expedited funding to biofuels producers to encourage production of next-generation biofuels from biomass and other non-corn feedstocks;

- * Expansion of Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program, which has been renamed the Rural Energy for America Program, to include hydroelectric source technologies, energy audits, and higher loan guarantee limits; and

- * Guidance and support for collection, harvest, storage, and transportation assistance for eligible materials for use in biomass conversion facilities.

The Biofuels Interagency Working Group will develop the nation's first comprehensive biofuels market development program. The increased collaboration between federal agencies will accelerate the production of and access to sustainable homegrown energy options by coordinating policies that impact the supply, secure transport, and distribution of biofuels, as well as identifying new policy options to improve the environmental sustainability of biofuels feedstock production.

The Biofuels Interagency Working Group will also work to develop policies to increase flexible fuel vehicle production and assist in retail marketing efforts while also taking into consideration land use, habitat conservation, crop management practices, water efficiency and water quality, and lifecycle assessments of greenhouse gas emissions.

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