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For Immediate Release

## **U.S. APPROVAL OF 15% ETHANOL BLENDED FUELS IS A BOOST FOR RENEWABLE FUELS**

OTTAWA: The Canadian Renewable Fuels Association today lauded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to allow ethanol blends of 15% (E15) in car models built since 2001. E15 fuel can now be used in over 200 million cars or over half of all vehicles on the road in the United States.

"Recently completed testing and data analysis show that E15 does not harm emissions control equipment in newer cars and light trucks," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson in a statement. "Wherever sound science and the law support steps to allow more home-grown fuels in America's vehicles, this administration takes those steps."

"The U.S. decision to allow E15 blended fuel, based on extensive testing, is a boost to renewable fuel producers in Canada and around the world. It is further affirmation of the value of ethanol blends and the growth opportunities ahead," said Gordon Quaiattini, president of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association. "This is good news for jobs, energy security, greenhouse gas reduction, cleaner air and revitalized rural communities."

From an economic perspective, the contribution of renewable fuels is a substantial source of economic and financial benefit to rural Canada. Construction of biofuels facilities has generated roughly \$3 billion in economic activity and ongoing operations represent a \$2 billion annual economic contribution.

For our farmers, higher incomes that flow from the sale of surplus feedstock bring additional security and lessen reliance on income and safety-net programs. For our forestry sector, the use of waste wood and by-products will similarly see significant new economic gains as cellulosic and advanced biofuels are commercialized.

The direct environmental benefits are equally significant. Ethanol reduces harmful tailpipe emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate matter, oxides of nitrogen, and other ozone-forming pollutants. Biodiesel, which is often used in buses and trucks, is 10 times less toxic than table salt and is as biodegradable as sugar.

In terms of greenhouse gases (GHGs), a uniquely Canadian third party study found that Canadian-produced ethanol reduced GHGs by 62% compared to fossil fuels and biodiesel generated a remarkable 99% reduction. Biofuels in Canada today account for an annual cut of 4.2 megatonnes – the equivalent of removing 1 million cars from our nation's highways. Current ethanol production in Canada has at least a 2-to-1 net energy benefit.

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