

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Kate Cyrul / Bergen Kenny
(202) 224-3254

Pathfire & Actuality Information Below

Harkin Takes to Senate Floor to Discuss the Recent Delay of an EPA and DOE Decision on E-15

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) took to the Senate Floor today to discuss his disappointment with Friday’s announcement that the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) and Department of Energy (DOE) are again delaying a decision on the approval of higher ethanol blends for automobiles. Harkin is a leader in the Senate in promoting the production and use of biofuels in Iowa and across the country. Video and audio of the Senator’s remarks can be found below.

“I have come to the floor to speak about the government's unnecessary delay in deciding on the use and sale of E-15 at all the gasoline stations in this country. Quite frankly, this is an abdication of responsibility, and it couldn't come at a worse time,” **said Harkin**. “Increasing the blend rate will strengthen our national security, create jobs, boost our economy and help the environment. I've come to the floor today not just to urge, but to demand, that the EPA and the Department of Energy give this decision the highest and most urgent priority.”

Last Friday, the EPA and DOE announced they are delaying the decision on whether to approve the use of E15, a fuel blend of 15 percent ethanol and 85 percent gasoline, in all gasoline-fueled vehicles until sometime this Fall. Representatives of the ethanol industry formally requested a waiver that would provide that approval in March of 2009. Since the law requires action on such waiver requests within nine months, EPA’s original deadline was December of 2009. At that deadline, EPA stated in a letter to Growth Energy that they wanted to see the results of more of the testing that was being conducted by the DOE. They also stated that they anticipated a decision in early summer and that, provided test results remained supportive, they anticipated being able to approve E15 for use in 2001 and newer vehicles. Now the EPA is saying that they will announce a partial decision, applying only to vehicles of model year 2007 or newer, in September, and a further announcement about older vehicles later in the Fall. While EPA makes final decision regarding approval of E15, vehicle testing to support the waiver decision is the responsibility of the Department of Energy.

****PATHFIRE INSTRUCTIONS****

THIS FOOTAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON PATHFIRE DMG BEGINNING TODAY, JUNE 23 AT 1:00 PM CENTRAL TIME

1. On the left side of the Pathfire/DMG main page, click on Video News Feed (Master VNF Locator).

2. From the expanded list, double-click on VNF Provider B.
3. Click the U.S. Senate tab.
4. Locate and click (IA1) IA, Harkin. The link to the video will be displayed in the pane on the right.

For more instructions, visit http://democrats.senate.gov/tv/pathfire/Harkin_via_Pathfire.pdf

****RADIO ACTUALITY INSTRUCTIONS****

This actuality is available by calling 1-800-511-0763 and entering the ID# 5564 or on the web at: <http://demradio.senate.gov/actualities/harkin/harkin100623.mp3>

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