

Harkin Takes to Senate Floor to Discuss Importance of Including Biofuels Measures in Energy Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) today took to the Senate floor to discuss the importance of including biofuels market expansion measures in the *Promoting Natural Gas and Electric Vehicles Act of 2010* - the energy bill that is now being considered in the Senate. Harkin pushed for the inclusion of language that would promote the production and use of biofuels by increasing the number of flex-fuel vehicles on the road, incentivizing the addition of more biofuels fueling stations and encouraging investments in biofuels pipelines. Harkin discussed the benefits of biofuels production, including job creation, reduced dependence on foreign oil, and the environmental benefits of biofuels, and debunked the incorrect belief that biofuels production compromises the food supply. Harkin is also working to support efforts to extend the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) and the biodiesel tax credit. **Satellite instructions and an actuality of Harkin's remarks can be found below.**

“Today I want to express a frustration pertaining to our most ominous energy problem, our addiction to oil. We cannot afford to continue to send billions of dollars to unstable oil producing countries, nor to ignore rising global temperatures and the health effects that result from our use of fossil fuels,” **said Harkin.** “While biofuels have been a remarkable success, their contribution will not continue to grow without further direction and support through federal policy. That is why I and other Senators believe it is critically important to include biofuels market expansion measures in the energy bill that we are now considering here in the Senate.”

As the former Chairman and now senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Harkin has been a long-time leader in promoting the production and use of biofuels as an important part of the nation's energy strategy. Last Wednesday, Harkin led a bipartisan group of Senators in calling on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to include provisions aimed at expanding biofuels markets in energy legislation pending in the Senate. Additionally, the Senators asked that Leader Reid consider legislation to extend the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) beyond its current expiration date of December 31, 2010. It is estimated that the enactment of these policies will enable as much as a 5-fold increase in biofuels' displacement of oil-based fuel use in transportation within the next two decades. Joining Harkin in signing the letter were Senators Christopher Bond (R-MO), Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN). A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).