

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 24, 2008

## **Biofuels Mandate: An Environmental Nightmare**

**WASHINGTON, June 24** – In light of Texas Governor Perry’s petition to the Environmental Protection Agency to waive his state’s renewable fuels mandate, the Clean Air Task Force, Environmental Working Group, and Friends of the Earth issued the following statements.

"Policies that mandate the use of corn ethanol and other biofuels at the expense of the environment are a train wreck in the making," said Jonathan Lewis, an attorney with the Clean Air Task Force. "Fortunately, the petition to waive the mandate provides EPA with a much-needed off-ramp. EPA must take this opportunity to slow down and examine the ways in which biofuels threaten climate, water quality, and biodiversity."

“Instead of subsidizing an ethanol bender, America needs a real energy policy focused on higher mileage standards, conservation, and clean energy solutions like solar and wind, " said Richard Wiles, executive director of the Environmental Working Group. “Thanks largely to the ethanol mandate, pollution levels in the Gulf of Mexico are expected to reach record levels, suffocating marine life and causing a lifeless dead zone the size of Massachusetts. That's a high environmental price to pay for a biofuels policy that is straining family food budgets for the poorest Americans, and is doing next to nothing to lower gas prices,” Wiles added

“This biofuels mandate harms the environment and prevents us from developing truly sustainable solutions for our energy and transportation woes, said Kate McMahon, Energy and Transportation Policy Campaigner at Friends of the Earth. “The EPA should take any and all actions to reverse the mandate.”

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