



# AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

7 September 2011

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
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Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and millions of taxpayers nationwide, I urge you to let the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) expire on December 31, 2011. Already set to sunset, Congress should put this misbegotten tax policy to rest by simply letting current law run its course.

The ethanol regime, the Renewable Fuel Standard (ethanol mandate), ethanol tariff, and VEETC, are indicative of government overreach. Unnecessarily attempting to wean Americans off of petroleum products, Washington propped up an industry at the expense of the American consumer.

As often happens when politicians inject themselves into the marketplace, every justification ethanol proponents have espoused over the last thirty years has been proven false—the fuel does not meaningfully reduce emissions and is an inefficient substitute for traditional gasoline.

Allowing the VEETC to expire is a necessary first step towards dismantling government-induced ethanol consumption. Alternative fuels may very well prove to be a viable substitute for gasoline someday but forcing Americans to carry this politically connected industry's weight is both unfair and unsustainable.

While only responsible for a small portion of government-forced ethanol consumption in this country, allowing the VEETC to expire would provide a tangible victory for adherents of free market principles. With the VEETC gone, conservatives can focus their efforts on eliminating the Renewable Fuel Standard, the real axis of the government's ethanol regime.

Americans for Tax Reform has consistently opposed the VEETC and hopes Congress will seize this opportunity and make this tax credit a thing of the past.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist