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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

June 17, 1993

The Honorable Paul D. Wellstone
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator ~~Wellstone~~: *Paul*

Thank you for your letter and the information you enclosed regarding the use of ethanol and its role in the Clean Air Act's Reformulated Fuels Program. It was good to hear from you, and I enjoyed our meeting in this regard.

I appreciated hearing your views in our recent meeting. As I stated, I look forward to the report of the Council of Great Lakes Governors. I agree that all reliable scientific data should be considered in order to come to an informed decision in compliance with the Clean Air Act on this very important issue. I look forward to working with you on this matter in the future.

Again, thank you for keeping me apprised of your thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Al Gore".

Al Gore

AGJ/avl

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2303

June 7, 1993

Honorable Al Gore Jr.
The Vice President
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

Thank you for meeting with my colleagues and me on May 18. I am grateful I had the opportunity to let you and Administrator Browner know how important ethanol is to my state.

I also appreciated the chance to communicate how urgent I believe it is that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) consider actual ozone formation when determining ethanol's role in ozone non-attainment cities as the agency implements the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA).

I am enclosing for your information two items. The first is a very brief staff memo outlining my position concerning ethanol and CAAA implementation, and summarizing what I believe was the outcome of our May 18 meeting.

The second item is a copy of testimony delivered before the EPA by my friend David Morris. I consider David, who is Director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance - based in Minneapolis and Washington, D.C. - to be one of this country's leading practical thinkers in the area of sustainable economic development.

The point of David's testimony is that the promising young ethanol industry is a key element of the transition in America to a sustainable, renewable-resource based economy. Implementation of the CAAA can, as his testimony states, "enable the ethanol industry to continue to evolve and mature or to cause it to stagnate and, as a result, to eventually shrink and disappear."

Mr. Vice President, you know of my commitment to clean air. I do not seek any environmental exemption for ethanol. But it would be highly ironic if ethanol were to be excluded from use in ozone non-attainment cities, in favor of a fossil-derived fuel which is largely imported, if ethanol does not create more ozone.

I am confident that you and Administrator Browner will, as you

said on May 18, seek to ensure that CAAA implementation will be based on the best possible science. And I am hopeful that our meeting helped assure that outcome.

Thank you again for meeting with us, and please feel free to call me at any time on this or any subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul".

Paul David Wellstone
United States Senator

PDW:ba
cc: Kathleen McGinty

enclosure

-STAFF MEMO-

**TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT; EPA ADMINISTRATOR BROWNER; KATHLEEN
MCGINTY; ROB BRENNER**
FROM: BRIAN AHLBERG (L.A., SENATOR WELLSTONE)
6-7-93
RE: ETHANOL AND CAAA IMPLEMENTATION

The May 18 meeting at the Old Executive Office Building represented an important opportunity for five Democratic senators and two Democratic House members to convey their views concerning ethanol and the EPA's proposed regulation on the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA).

The members made three basic points:

- 1) ethanol is very important economically and politically in Midwestern farm states;
- 2) it was the clear intent of the Congress that ethanol should be allowed to compete meaningfully in the Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) program where it does not increase pollution; and
- 3) actual ozone formation should be considered by the EPA in determining ethanol's role in ozone non-attainment cities.

And they made one request:

- that the EPA look seriously at a study to be conducted this month, sponsored by the Council of Great Lakes Governors, to see if its results can be useful for the purposes of the CAAA regulation.

The Council's study will compare, through computer modeling of the Chicago-Milwaukee airshed, ozone formation from use of the two fuels which are expected to compete in the RFG program: ethanol-blended gasoline and MTBE-blended gasoline.

Senator Wellstone realizes that the results of the Council-sponsored study may not be directly applicable to other ozone non-attainment airsheds. However, because such tests are so expensive (hence rare), and because the September deadline for announcement of the CAAA regulation is so close, he believes it is crucial that this study's results be completely credible - whatever the eventual scope of their application.

That is why cooperative participation by EPA technical staff - in ensuring that the study's protocol and scenarios are based on

sound science - is so important.

Administrator Browner assured the members that EPA personnel would, in fact, meet with people who were conducting the study. Likewise, Vice President Gore expressed that he believed the study should be looked at carefully.

Even after considering the results of the Council study, however, the EPA must still resolve the policy question of whether actual ozone formation can even be considered in setting the regulation. This is so despite the fact that reducing ozone is the purpose of the law. Some within the agency advocate continuing to base policy solely on the mass-based accounting of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Ethanol is an immature and imperfect industry. But its potential is great, and many of the benefits go directly to areas of the country where economic hope has been receding in recent years.

In Minnesota, ethanol plants are generally owned and operated as corn-grower cooperatives. They are not controlled by any large agribusiness corporation. In addition to the four already operating in Minnesota, eight more are in various stages of design or planning. New plants will be even more energy-efficient than the current ones, and ethanol's feedstocks will be produced by methods that are increasingly environmentally sound.

The members expressed that they do not seek to impede or delay implementation of the CAAA. Nor do they seek an environmental exemption for ethanol. Its use should be promoted where agreed-upon science determines that it does not contribute to harmful pollution.

We believe this is achievable within the CAAA. It would be highly ironic if ethanol were to be effectively excluded from the RFG program, in favor of a fossil-derived fuel which is largely imported, if ethanol does not create more ozone. This Administration will determine whether the CAAA regulations enable, or disable, a transition to sustainable development in rural America based in part on expanded production of, and markets for, domestic ethanol.

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ETHANOL:
A Fuel In Transition, An Industry Emerging

David Morris

Testimony Before the Reformulated Gasoline Hearing

Environmental Protection Agency

Sterling, Virginia

April 14, 1993

INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE

Environmentally Sound Economic Development