

April 4, 2003

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Congressman Collin Peterson  
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As the House and Senate work to formulate national energy policy legislation, one issue that deserves to be in the forefront of the debate is the establishment of a national Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). General Motors supports development of such a standard.


General Motors has long supported the use of ethanol in transportation fuels -- going back more than 20 years when we were the first to approve the use of 10 percent ethanol blends in our products. Our vehicle Owners Manuals continue to "recommend" the use of clean fuels containing oxygenates, including ethanol. Moreover, today GM is the largest producer of E-85 flexible fuel vehicles in the U.S.

While some critics continue to raise concerns over vehicle compatibility with ethanol blended fuels, this is not an issue for General Motors. GM vehicles have been designed to operate on properly blended ethanol fuels for over 20 years. We believe that other concerns over vehicle emission impacts of ethanol blends can be addressed as we work toward meeting the new US Tier 2 and California LEV II emission requirements, and through various offset mitigation strategies such as gasoline sulfur reduction and adjustment of distillation properties.

Our support for ethanol in transportation fuels is based on a comprehensive study of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of a wide range of propulsion technologies and fuels. The GM-sponsored "Well-to-Wheels" study was first published for North America in 2000 in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratories and BP, Exxon-Mobil and Shell.

The use of ethanol as an alternative transportation fuel continues to make sense for many reasons. Establishing domestic renewable sources of energy can diversify our fuel supply and provide an opportunity to enhance energy security by reducing petroleum energy usage. To that end, General Motors supports the inclusion of a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) in any final energy bill that might be adopted this year.

Sincerely,



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