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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

August 21, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

I am writing to remind you of my May 5, 2008, request for an oversight hearing on the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). I specifically requested a hearing to examine the “emerging questions surrounding ethanol’s effects on world food and livestock feed prices, its economic sustainability, and its transportation and infrastructure needs, its water usage, and numerous other environmental issues.”

While I recognize the Clean Air Subcommittee held a hearing on July 10th, the stated purpose of that hearing was “the status of life-cycle analysis and advancements in next generation biofuels,” which does not even begin to address the issues in my request. As you no doubt remember, at that hearing I renewed my request for an oversight hearing examining the important issues I raise in my May 5th letter.

I am concerned that so far this Congress, you have not scheduled any minority requested hearings. I hope that my request will be honored before the end of this session. I am concerned that our Committee calendar for September is quickly filling up without a minority hearing being scheduled. I read in the press yesterday that you intend to have an Endangered Species Hearing on September 24th and I am aware of several other dates being scoped and planned by our staffs. Since we have addressed so many majority priorities so far this Congress, I hope that we can schedule this one minority request quickly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator