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March 11, 2008

The Honorable William R. Haine
Senate Environment and Energy Committee
267-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Haine:

The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition is the nation's primary advocate advancing the use of 85 percent ethanol as a form of alternative transportation fuel. We are a nonprofit organization established in the mid 1990s to assist with the establishment of E85 fueling infrastructure. We have worked closely with many partners throughout Illinois which is a national leader in the number of E85 fueling sites across the state.

I am writing today to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 2238 calling for the implementation of California's Low Emission Vehicle Program (CA LEV) in Illinois. The specific factors relating to our opposition are as follows:

- Adoption of CA LEV will not support the state's commitment to E85 technology and infrastructure and thus will be damaging to Illinois' impressive leadership in promoting the use of ethanol blends.
- Every component of CA LEV presents a significant hurdle to the proliferation of E85 fuel and flexible fuel vehicles in the state.
 - Emissions Standards: It is our understanding that should the California Air Resources Board move forward and adopt an updated Low Emission Vehicle program in 2008 as they intend to do; it is expected that the average vehicle will be required to meet the Super Ultra Low Vehicle Emission (SULEV) standard. Existing technology prevents flexible fuel vehicles from meeting the SULEV standards.
 - Fuel Economy Standards: It is our belief that there is no practical way for vehicle manufacturers to get credit toward their fuel economy fleet averages by producing or selling flexible fuel vehicles. In order to obtain such credit, proof would need to be provided that the vehicles are being operated on E85 fuel over time; a seemingly impossible task once vehicles are in the hands of consumers.

The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition is the nation's primary advocate of the use of ethanol as an alternative form of transportation fuel and is supported in those efforts by automakers, corn growers, ethanol producers, the Governors' Ethanol Coalition and other advocates of the use of clean, domestic, renewable fuels.

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- Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate: It is our understanding that no flexible fuel vehicle has EVER met the standards set forth in the ZEV Mandate. Furthermore, it is our belief that the California Air Resources Board has not demonstrated that it is even technically possible for any flexible fuel vehicle to meet the ZEV standards. Adoption of CA LEV will require that approximately 40 percent of all new vehicles meet the ZEV mandate. Thus, CA LEV immediately eliminates about 40 percent of the E85 market.

To summarize, embracing the California Low Emission Vehicle program will, in our opinion, jeopardize the implementation of your state's commitment to E85 technology and infrastructure. Please note that the National Vehicle Ethanol Coalition is not evaluating the costs vs. benefits of the California program in total, but making an effort to identify the potential "unintended consequences" of embracing CA LEV.

The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition encourages you to continue to exercise your strong, past leadership in regard to E85 fuel, technology, and infrastructure. Thus, we recommend that you vote NO on Senate Bill 2238. For more information on our position, please contact me at 573-635-8445 or via e-mail at plampert@e85fuel.com.

Sincerely,
NATIONAL ETHANOL VEHICLE COALITION

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phillip J. Lampert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phillip J. Lampert
Executive Director