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April 26, 2006

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Harkin and Lugar:

Thank you for your correspondence dated February 2, 2006, relating to renewable fuels supply and demand. In that letter, you discussed biofuels supply and asked for CITGO's input about market availability of biofuel blends of up to 85 percent ethanol ("E-85").

First, CITGO commends and supports efforts to maintain a stable energy supply and is pleased to be a part of a strong economy. In fact, after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, when the markets were experiencing the supply problems that you mention in your letter, CITGO worked expediently to secure 1,000,000 barrels of incremental gasoline—ready to go to the pump—and injected it into the U.S. market in order to assist in increasing the U.S. gasoline supply for consumers.

As for supply of other fuel products, such as E-85, CITGO continues to operate in the free market economy in which adequate supply of all economically viable products meet demand. Presently E-85 is sold by certain independent businesses who also market CITGO products. Sales of such products, of course, depend on local and/or regional demand, logistics, and medium- to long-term planning required for the development of an adequate infrastructure. As we move forward, CITGO remains committed to supplying quality products to meet the demand in areas in which CITGO operates.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to discuss this important issue. Please contact me at [REDACTED], if you wish to further visit about this issue.

Best regards,

