



July 16, 2010

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

On behalf of our members, supporters and activists, Friends of the Earth writes in strong opposition to the Klobuchar-Johnson Bill, S. 3578, "Securing America's Future with Energy and Sustainable Technologies Act," (SAFEST). This bill, while it includes a strong Renewable Electricity Standard and an Energy Efficiency Standard, removes critical environmental safeguards and expands blanket subsidies for unsustainable biofuels. S. 3578 will cause the destruction of our forests and sensitive ecosystems, while also causing increased global warming pollution.

In 2007, Congress produced an energy bill that Friends of the Earth was forced to oppose because it contained a 36 billion gallon mandate for biofuels that lacked robust environmental safeguards. S. 3578 would eviscerate these already weak environmental standards from the 2007 energy bill, while also creating dangerous precedent for other bioenergy policies.

Friends of the Earth will work to oppose any legislation that includes:

- 1) Allowing for dirty corn ethanol to qualify as an "advanced" biofuel in the Renewable Fuel Standard;
- 2) Grandfathering biodiesel from the global warming standard in the Renewable Fuel Standard;
- 3) Removing Indirect Land Use Change from the lifecycle analysis in the global warming standard in the Renewable Fuel Standard;
- 4) Removing critical biomass sourcing safeguards in the definition of Renewable Biomass;
- 5) Providing loan guarantees for ethanol pipelines;
- 6) Extending the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit; and
- 7) Extending the Biodiesel Excise Tax Credit.

These components of S. 3578 could result in immense environmental degradation at a high economic cost to both consumers and tax payers. We have the unique opportunity to pass legislation that moves us in the right direction on energy policy. This opportunity should not be squandered with policies that promote energy forms that cause global warming pollution and degrade natural ecosystems. The inclusion of any of these provisions undermines any global warming or environmental gains that could be achieved. We urge you not to include them in any future energy bill.

Sincerely,

Erich Pica
President

CC: Senators Klobuchar and Johnson