

July 8, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell and Representatives Boehner and Pelosi:

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) is the world's largest biotechnology organization, with more than 1,100 member companies worldwide. Within its broad membership, more than 85 industrial biotechnology companies are leading the way toward production of conventional and advanced biofuels and other sustainable energy solutions. In the United States, the biotechnology industry contributes nearly \$90 billion to the nation's GDP and employs 1.4 million people, including 100,000 within the industrial biotechnology sector.

Biotechnology companies researching and developing new technologies for advanced biofuels can help diversify the military's energy supply and advance U.S. national and energy security objectives as set forth in the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review. Diversification of the Department of Defense's fuel supplies is valuable given the long-term unpredictability of the oil market. The use of more domestically produced renewable energy also serves as a "force multiplier," both at home and overseas, by increasing the military's ability to operate freely while limiting the number of combat forces needed to protect oil supply lines.

BIO commends Congress for its bipartisan support for the commercialization of renewable fuels and, in particular, advanced biofuels. Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, for example, has encouraged the use of biofuels within the Department of Defense and other federal agencies and has driven investment in BIO member companies.

The advanced biofuels industry is rapidly maturing because biotech companies have made significant private investments to commercialize the technology. However, the Department of Defense is also playing a role in its commercial development and growth. BIO member companies, such as Solazyme, Amyris, Sapphire Energy, and Sustainable Oils are currently working with the Department of Defense at their facilities in California, Montana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas, Hawaii, and Washington to supply "drop-in" biofuels for use in



military jets, ships, and vehicles. Other BIO members are developing biobutanol that can be utilized as a “drop-in” fuel or can be converted to jet fuel. Still other BIO members are helping speed the development of these advanced biofuel technologies more generally.

Congress has invested wisely in its promotion of advanced biofuels within the Department of Defense. Industry anticipates, for example, that these fuels will become cost competitive with traditional energy sources within the next three to five years.

BIO looks forward to working with the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress as it promotes job growth and investment in the industrial biotechnology sector by continuing its bipartisan support for the use of advanced biofuels within the Department of Defense and other federal agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Greenwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

James C. Greenwood  
President and CEO  
Biotechnology Industry Organization