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# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Senators Harkin and Bond Preserve Support for Key Biodiesel Education Program** **NBB Applauds Work for Program that Helps Biodiesel Become a Household Word**

**JEFFERSON CITY, MO--** Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Senator Kit Bond (R-MO) restored funding this week for a key biodiesel education program during the Full Committee deliberations of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Last week, the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee marked up its fiscal year 2005 bill and offered no funding to continue the National Biodiesel Education Program even though the program was authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill at \$1 million annually, or a total of \$5 million for fiscal years 2003 through 2007. During Full Appropriations Committee meetings, Bond, Harkin and other senators secured \$1 million for fiscal year 2005 that will now be considered by the full Senate as well as a House/Senate Appropriations conference committee.

The education program was developed to educate, research and promote growth in the biodiesel industry. "We are thankful to Senators Harkin and Bond for their bipartisan recognition that the fledgling biodiesel industry relied on Congress's commitment of funding to help increase awareness and grow the biodiesel industry," said National Biodiesel Board (NBB) Chief Executive Officer Joe Jobe. "The National Biodiesel Education Program is an important investment in our nation's energy future, at a time when the need for increasing our supplies of clean, domestic energy could never be greater. This grant is helping make biodiesel a household word."

In August 2003, the U.S. Department of Agriculture selected the NBB, a nonprofit organization, located in Jefferson City, Mo., and the University of Idaho, as the two award recipients. The program has allowed NBB and the biodiesel industry to strengthen education activities and initiate efforts previously not possible due to a shortage of resources. During its first year of implementation, the National Biodiesel Education Program achieved substantial results, and is a model of government and industry partnership.

More than 400 major fleets use biodiesel commercially nationwide including all four branches of the military, NASA, Harvard, National Park Service, U.S. Postal Service, LL Bean and others. About 300 retail filling stations make various biodiesel blends available to the public, and more than 1,000 petroleum distributors carry it nationwide. Biodiesel is nontoxic, biodegradable and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics. Biodiesel offers similar fuel economy, horsepower and torque to petroleum diesel while providing superior lubricity. It significantly reduces emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate matter, unburned hydrocarbons and sulfates. On a lifecycle

basis, biodiesel reduces carbon dioxide by 78 percent compared to petroleum diesel, making it the most effective greenhouse gas mitigation technology currently available for heavy-duty vehicles and equipment.

As an American-made fuel, biodiesel use benefits the rural economy as well as the U.S. economy at large. The NBB is a national nonprofit organization that serves as the central coordinating body for biodiesel research, development, and education.

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Readers can learn more about biodiesel by visiting <http://www.biodiesel.org>.