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NEWS INFORMATION

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Two Million Mile Haul Results Mischaracterized **Participant Says Sponsors Buried Data to Support Biodiesel Mandate**

DES MOINES, Iowa – Feb. 24, 2010 – The trucking company that participated in the Two Million Mile Haul is challenging reported results of the two-year, over-the-road study comparing biodiesel and petroleum diesel. Officials from Fort Dodge-based Decker Truck Line, Inc. have issued a position letter to dispel confusion about the study results and their position on current legislation to mandate biodiesel in Iowa.

“Iowa Biodiesel Board, Iowa Soybean Association and REG are promoting the Two Million Mile Haul as a success. But, if the report is read, the true results are buried in a mountain of data,” explains Steve Lursen, a special projects manager who managed the Two Million Mile Haul study for Decker.

Study sponsors regularly tout comparable fuel economy, performance and cold weather characteristics, as well as improved lubricity for biodiesel compared to conventional on-road diesel fuel. Decker officials offer a notably different perspective of the results:

- Biodiesel MPG was 2 percent lower;
- Quality of biodiesel is inconsistent;
- Cold weather is a major issue for biodiesel;
- Biodiesel lubricating advantages could not be substantiated;
- Biodiesel costs are higher; and,
- Availability of biodiesel is limited.

“It’s no coincidence we’ve not been invited to participate in study promotions. The sponsors are fully aware of our stance” said Lursen. “Even more disheartening is confusion that’s being spread to suggest Decker Truck Line supports the mandated use of biodiesel. This could not be further from the truth.”

The proposed biodiesel mandate is a significant concern as trucking company profitability is measured in cents per mile. Decker officials say fuel is their second-largest operating expense, and the Two Million Mile Haul proves that biodiesel is not a cost effective solution at this time.

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At the beginning of the study, according to Decker representatives, biodiesel was cheaper than petroleum diesel and those savings helped off-set some of the issues and headaches associated with the biofuel. By the end of the test, biodiesel was significantly more expensive, while delivering decreased performance. That trend continues today, with a gallon of biodiesel currently costing \$3.83 and petroleum diesel priced at \$2.62 per gallon.

Decker officials will meet with Iowa lawmakers this week to set the record straight regarding their position on the test results and biofuel mandates. They are meeting with the House Agricultural Committee today at 2 p.m. and will convene with the House Transportation Committee tomorrow at 1 p.m.

“Decker Trucking Company participated in the Two Million Mile Haul to help objectively determine the performance of biodiesel,” said Brenda Neville, president of the Iowa Motor Truck Association. “They committed a lot of time, energy and resources to this initiative, only to have their overall position on mandates mischaracterized by supporters of the biofuel mandates.”

Sponsors of the Two Million Mile Haul study include several of the leading proponents of a biodiesel mandate, including the National Biodiesel Board, the Renewable Energy Group (REG) and the Iowa Soybean Association.

“As we near the end of this year’s legislative session, there are still bills on the table to mandate biodiesel and ethanol,” Dawn Carlson, spokesperson for Iowans for Consumer Fuel Choice adds “It’s important that we serve as the voice of reason and protect the interests of Iowans by promoting responsible renewable energy leadership in Iowa. Mandates are not responsible public policy.”

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ABOUT IOWANS FOR CONSUMER FUEL CHOICE:

The Iowans for Consumer Fuel Choice (ICFC) is a coalition of public, private, business and labor organizations that support renewable fuels, but stand opposed to product mandates that manipulate our free market system and drive up fuel costs in our state. Our mission is to protect the rights and interests of all Iowans by serving as the voice of reason for a responsible and fair marketplace.

ICFC charter member organizations include: Broadway Flying J Travel Plaza; Casey’s General Stores; Hy-Vee, Inc.; Iowa 80 Truck Stop; Iowa Association of Business & Industry; Iowa Association of School Boards; Iowa Automobile Dealers Association; Iowa Good Roads Association; Iowa Grocery Industry Association; Iowa Motor Truck Association; Iowa Rural Water Association; Iowa Section of the American Water Works; Keck Energy; Kum & Go, LC; Kwik Star; Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores of Iowa; Pilot Travel Centers, LLC; Teamsters Local 238; and the American Petroleum Institute.