



COORDINATING RESEARCH COUNCIL, INC.

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Subject: An open letter from the Coordinating Research Council

On May 16, 2012, the Coordinating Research Council (CRC) issued a report, CRC Project No. CM-136-09-1B *Intermediate-Level Ethanol Blends Engine Durability Study*. This report was only one of a series of reports undertaken by CRC to understand the comprehensive nature of ethanol blended fuel and the impact that such a fuel may have on legacy fleet vehicles. In particular, the Intermediate Level Ethanol Blends Engine Durability Study presented the results of an engine durability program on late-model vehicle engines tested on gasoline with ethanol blended at 20 and 15 volume percent as well as straight gasoline (i.e. no blended ethanol). The results of this report have generated a substantial amount of interest in how CRC conducts its research and manages its research programs. This open letter provides additional background on CRC's role.

The Coordinating Research Council (CRC) is a non-profit organization that directs, through committee action, engineering and environmental studies on the interaction between automotive/other mobility equipment and petroleum products. The Sustaining Members of CRC are the American Petroleum Institute (API) and a group of automobile manufacturer members (Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Toyota, and Volkswagen). CRC research programs are managed by five technical committees (Advanced/Vehicle/Fuel/Lubricants, Atmospheric Impacts, Emissions, Performance, and Aviation.)

CRC has been conducting studies on the performance of engines, fuels, emissions and vehicles since circa 1919. We have, more so than any other organization, been the source of research that has been used to help establish the specifications for gasoline and diesel fuels' performance in the United States. CRC has for many years worked with not just the automotive and energy industries but also government agencies (e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and California Air Resources Board) and others (e.g. the Renewable Fuels Industry, Universities, National Laboratories, and other research organizations). CRC values these relationships and cooperation and looks forward to future cooperation with DOE, EPA, the ethanol industry and others with an interest in scientific research.

CRC works hard at maintaining its reputation for unbiased research. In fact, one Congressional staff member when calling recently stated, "I understand that CRC is the *Gold Standard* for research projects like this." CRC's legacy and current reputation for unbiased sound science research is a precious commodity for which we have diligently worked to maintain by continuing our long standing pattern of committee-managed, consensus-driven research. Part of that requirement is a strict policy for CRC to take no advocacy positions, regardless of the outcome of its research programs. Consistent with this, CRC does not advocate either the introduction or prohibition of E15 into the U.S. fuels market. CRC's role is to conduct relevant scientific programs for the benefit of the public. The advocacy statements relating to E15 after the release of CRC's study were authored by others and are not from CRC.

However, CRC has the right and even the obligation to defend its research to all challengers. Our research program on engine durability, Project No. CM-136-09-1B *Intermediate-Level Ethanol Blends Engine Durability Study*, was performed correctly and properly, using the best scientific methods available, making the most efficient use of available resources. CRC is a transparent organization with all results published and available to the public free of charge from our website upon project completion.

The CRC Board of Directors recognized how important and impactful this work may be, so prepublication results were made available for review on our website. During the progress of the research program, multiple stakeholder meetings were held with presentations on the interim progress and results. These meetings were held in Washington, DC with many stakeholders participating, including representatives of DOE, and EPA, and ethanol trade associations. Throughout all those meetings, there were no complaints or criticisms of our research programs.

In conclusion, CRC wants to emphasize that our intention is to continue to perform unbiased scientific studies and publish these results to the public for review. We will take no advocacy position, but will stand behind our work. CRC continues to value the close working relationships we have with our sponsors, government agencies such as EPA and DOE and other stakeholders such as the ethanol industry. CRC looks forward to continued close cooperation together with all these stakeholders on future scientific studies.

Brent Bailey
Executive Director
Coordinating Research Council