

Highlights of Lt. Gov. Judge Remarks:

“Over the last ten years, ethanol and biodiesel production has exploded, and for a time, virtually every community in the state was hoping to build a biofuels production facility. We know that this industry has been hurt by the same economic downturn that has affected the rest of the country. And with wild fluctuations in commodity prices, it has become increasingly difficult for biofuels producers in our state, and across the country. Though we understand this industry faces hardships, I want to tell you today that Chet Culver and I will never waiver in our commitment to biofuels, and we will continue to do whatever we can to grow this industry in Iowa.”

“E-10 has been an Iowa Success Story. So why not E-15? E-85? There is nothing to be afraid of, and we can make it a reality. To start, we are working with the Federal Government to grant an EPA waiver that will allow for E-15 to be the standard ethanol blend at the pump. Governor Culver, in his role as Vice Chair of the Governors Biofuels Coalition, is has been in discussions with the EPA to see this waiver take effect. And over the last few months, we have worked with groups like you to keep the pressure up.”

“If we are to continue to lead in renewable energy, we must also lead in innovation and new technology. I'm proud to say that in Iowa, that work is already underway. Immediately upon taking office, Governor Culver and I worked with the legislature to pass our signature renewable energy effort, the Iowa Power Fund. This \$100 million, four year investment in renewable energy is helping us discover the next generation of biofuels. The Power Fund, along with the Office of Energy Independence, is working to keep Iowa on the forefront of the renewable energy revolution, and is laying the groundwork for Iowa's continued leadership in all forms of green energy. And to see how it is working, travel to rural Emmetsburg, which has become one of the national hubs for renewable energy research thanks to POET's Project Liberty. They are using \$14.75 million in Power Fund dollars to make cellulosic ethanol - which up until now has only been an academic idea – commercially viable. With this work, we can use the entire corn plant, not just the kernel, expanding our ability to produce ethanol from Iowa's vast biomass resources. In all, the Iowa Power Fund has given out more than \$47 million, including \$22 million for 10 biofuels projects across the state. But let me assure today, while we work to find the second generation of biofuels, our commitment to first generation production remains as strong as ever.”