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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New York Governor Pledges State's Increased Use of Renewable Fuels

Pataki Calls for Executive Order for State Buildings and Trucks to Use Biofuels

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – On Wednesday, New York Governor George Pataki pledged support of renewable fuels, including biodiesel, in his State of the State address given to state legislators in Albany. The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) praised Pataki for showing his support for cleaner air for his state, support to soybean and corn farmers in New York State and greater dependence from foreign oil.

Biodiesel is a renewable fuel made from fat or vegetable oil, like that from domestically produced soybeans, which can be used in any diesel engine with few or no modifications.

“Last year, I announced that we were going to make New York State a leader in promoting renewable biofuels,” said Governor Pataki. “At Clarkson University, they’re already building refineries to make biodiesel from agricultural products.

“In order to assist this growing industry and farmers across New York State, I will sign an Executive Order requiring our state agencies to begin phasing in the use of biofuels to heat our state buildings and power our trucks,” he said.

“We commend the leadership of Governor Pataki in promoting renewable fuels such as biodiesel,” said Joe Jobe, NBB executive director. “Not only will the quality of life for people and workers in New York State improve through decreased pollution, but so will the quality of life for farmers, when value is added to their product, instead of money being sent to Mideast petroleum nations.”

Biodiesel recently received its first federal tax incentive, which went into effect January 1.

“This will help make biodiesel more available. It will narrow the price gap between cleaner burning biodiesel and fossil-based diesel fuel, increasing demand and availability,” Jobe said.

The renewable initiatives proposed by Governor Pataki are consistent with the objectives of New York State's Renewable Portfolio Standard which sets a target of 25 percent renewable energy by 2012, according to industry officials. Members of the governor's staff are working on the details of the executive order and hope to begin initial implementation within a period of months.

Biodiesel offers enhanced lubricity and cetane, plus similar horsepower and torque when compared to petroleum diesel. Since it is domestically produced and renewable, it also contributes to national energy security. More than 500 major fleets use biodiesel commercially nationwide including all four branches of the military, NASA, Harvard University, the National Park Service, U.S. Postal Service 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.

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Readers can learn more about biodiesel by visiting www.biodiesel.org.