

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR
AND PENSIONS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 11, 2011

Dr. Henry Kelly
Acting Assistant Secretary
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Mail Stop EE-1
Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Kelly:

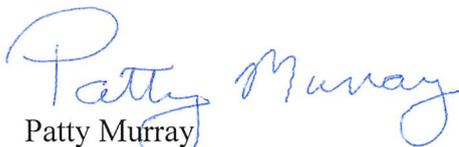
I am writing in support of the application submitted by Mercurius Biofuels to the US Department of Energy: *Catalytic Upgrading of Thermochemical Intermediates to Hydrocarbons* program. Mercurius Biofuels and their project partners are seeking assistance to design and construct a catalytic ethanolysis pilot plant.

The proposed pilot plant will be located in an existing building on the Energy and Environmental Research Center campus in North Dakota. The project consortium expects that once operational the plant will produce and further test alkane hydrocarbon blendstock for jet fuel and diesel, as well as product development of biomass sources.

The results of the testing and product development could enable Mercurius Biofuels to scale-up the catalytic ethanolysis process to demonstration and ultimately commercial scale. Mercurius Biofuels anticipates that a successful pilot program will lead to constructing biorefineries in Washington state. In addition to producing biofuels that will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, these potential biorefineries would provide green jobs in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of their application. Please contact Amanda Brothers in my Seattle office at (206) 553-5545 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

PM/ab