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James A. Thomson, President & Chief Executive Officer
RAND Corporation
1776 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401-3208

January 24, 2011

Dear Mr. Thomson,

We are writing today to express concern about the release of a new report on alternative fuels for military purposes by the RAND Corporation on Tuesday Jan. 25, 2011.

The RAND Corporation was contracted by the Department of Defense to conduct “a study on alternatives to reduce the life cycle emissions of alternative and synthetic fuels,” under the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2009 (PL 110–417). Among other items, this study was to examine:

- “The goals and progress of the military departments related to the research, testing, and certification for use of alternative or synthetic fuels in military vehicles and aircraft;” and
- “An analysis of trends, levels of investment, and the development of refining capacity in the alternative or synthetic fuel industry capable of meeting fuel requirements for the Department of Defense.”

It is in the interest of all concerned that the report fully and accurately assesses the trends, investments and capacity for production of alternative fuels. Growth Energy is a group committed to the promise of agriculture and growing America’s economy through cleaner, greener energy. Through smart policy reform and a proactive grassroots campaign, Growth Energy promotes reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expanding the use of ethanol in gasoline, decreasing our dependence on foreign oil, and creating American jobs at home. BIO represents more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more

than 30 other nations, including companies involved in research, development and commercial production of advanced biofuels, algae, and biomass crops.

To date, none of the companies we represent who are involved in the production of alternative fuels for military testing and certification have been contacted for information on the levels of investment and the development of refining capacity. Some of these companies have delivered significant amounts of fuel for testing in aircraft and warships, meeting timelines established by the Department of Defense to acquire 50 percent of its energy from alternative sources by 2020.

We strongly feel that energy independence is a national security issue. Substantial energy security benefits would accrue to the Department of Defense from development of domestic sources of renewable biofuels, even if the civilian use of this technology innovation would be greater. The Department of Defense is a significant consumer of fuel, representing close to 2 percent of annual U.S. petroleum use. The military is therefore at the mercy of the market – both in terms of stability of supplies and fluctuations in price.

We would ask that the RAND Corporation assure our organizations and our members that it has fully and accurately assessed the commercial status of the biofuel market and its progress in working with the Department of Defense on testing and certification of biofuels for military applications for this forthcoming report.

Sincerely,



Gen. Wesley Clark (Ret.)
Co-Chairman
Growth Energy



Hon. Jim Greenwood
President & CEO
Biotechnology Industry Organization