

PRESS RELEASE 10/30/08

The Legacy Academy Charter School First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Team will compete at UCCS in a regional robotics qualifying tournament next Saturday, November 8th. The team is working on a robotic solution using the Lego Mindstorms NXT system for this year's challenge, "Climate Connections." Their robot will use programming logic and sensor feedback to navigate autonomously on the FLL challenge field to accomplish various mission tasks.

In addition, the team will present the results of their research project. The team identified some new fuel synthesis technologies that solve drawbacks inherent in the ethanol fuel industry. They wanted to encourage the government to support these new technologies so they are getting petitions signed by everyone they know, and they'll send their petitions on to the President, Congress, and State and Local officials. Their coach, Brooks Imperial, helped them with the petition language, but the inspiration and background for the petition came from the students.

The Center for American Progress estimates there are 4.46 million flex fuel vehicles on the road nationwide. At an \$8 billion annual ethanol subsidy, that comes to \$1,833 of subsidy per vehicle per year. The students believe this money could be spent much more wisely on new, non-alcohol fuel technologies, such as those developed by inventor Craig Venter, and produced by companies such as LS9, Amyris, and Gevo.

Their petition reads as follows:

Whereas

- The United States Congress passed legislation to promote the alcohol fuel industry in America and,
- The legislation created tax incentives and subsidies that caused a large amount of corn to be taken out of food production and redirected to ethanol fuel production and,
- The remaining corn in food production became a lot more expensive so that many people around the world have gone hungry because they haven't been able to afford food at higher prices and,
- There are new genetically engineered bacteria that can economically digest organic raw materials and directly create "waste" output products that have the same properties as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel products currently in use and with fewer harmful byproducts and less pollution, and,
- That these new fuels can run in existing cars, trucks and planes without modifications and we wouldn't have to buy new flex-fuel vehicles, motors, and gas station pumps in order to use these fuels and,
- That these new genetically engineered organisms can digest a wide range of organic material including many things currently in landfills and,
- That raw materials could be provided for fuel production that wouldn't require using corn and other food sources and,

- That it is unwise for us to solve our energy problem by creating a big food problem for the world,

Therefore we the undersigned petition the United States Congress, the President, and all State and Local Governments to change the taxation and subsidy laws currently benefitting alcohol fuel production, and redirect all of those incentives to the new processes based on genetically engineered organisms for creating bio-fuels with properties equivalent to current non-ethanol gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

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Contact: Brooks Imperial