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Ethanol Industry Group Names Buis CEO, Nussle Special Adviser

By: Mario Parker

Feb. 25 (Bloomberg) -- Growth Energy, an ethanol trade group, today named Tom Buis as its chief executive officer and former congressman Jim Nussle as a special adviser to the organization's board of directors.

Buis, a former president of the National Farmers Union, was a senior agriculture policy adviser to former U.S. Senator Tom Daschle, a Democrat from South Dakota, Growth Energy said in an emailed statement. Nussle, a Republican from Iowa, was the director of the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

The group was formed in November to promote the grain-based fuel and lobby for the expansion of its blending with gasoline. It includes Poet LLC, the largest U.S. ethanol producer, and publicly traded Green Plains Renewable Energy Inc.

Earlier this month, Growth Energy named retired U.S. Army General Wesley Clark as its co-chairman. Clark, who sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004, was an adviser to President Barack Obama during last year's election.