

**AVENTINE RENEWABLE ENERGY HOLDINGS, INC. ANNOUNCES  
RETIREMENT OF THOMAS MANUEL  
AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

DALLAS, Tx – August 19, 2011 – Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. (OTCBB:AVRW), announced the retirement of Thomas Manuel, Chief Executive Officer of Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc., effective immediately. Concurrent with his retirement, Mr. Manuel has resigned from the Board of Directors of the Company.

The Board of Directors appointed John Castle, the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, to serve as Interim Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Mr. Castle has assumed all of the duties of the Chief Executive Officer and will serve as Aventine’s Interim Chief Executive Officer until a permanent successor has been determined. In addition, the Board of Directors has appointed Calvin Stewart, the Chief Accounting and Compliance Officer of the Company, to serve as Interim Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Castle will continue to serve as Chief Operating Officer and Mr. Stewart will continue to serve as Chief Accounting Officer of the Company.

“I want to thank Tom for his leadership, service and commitment to the Company. I wish him every success in his future endeavors,” said Eugene Davis, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

***About Aventine Renewable Energy***

Aventine is a leading producer of ethanol. Through our production facilities, we market and distribute ethanol to many of the leading energy companies in the U.S. In addition to producing ethanol, our facilities also produce several by-products, such as distillers grain, corn gluten meal and feed, corn germ and grain distillers dried yeast, which generate revenue and allow us to help offset a significant portion of our corn costs.

***Forward Looking Statements***

Certain information included in this press release may be deemed to be “forward looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. In some cases, you can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as “may,” “might,” “will,” “should,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “predict,” “potential” or “continue,” and the negatives of these terms and other comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements, which are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions about us, may include projections of our future financial performance based on our growth strategies and anticipated trends in our business. These statements are only predictions based on our current expectations and projections about future events. There are important factors that could cause our actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results, level of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements.

Some of the factors that may cause Aventine's actual results, developments and business decisions to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward looking statements include our ability to obtain and maintain normal terms with vendors and service providers, our estimates of allowed general unsecured claims, unliquidated and contingent claims and estimations of future distributions of securities and allocations of securities among various categories of claim holders, our ability to maintain contracts that are critical to our operations, our ability to attract and retain customers, our ability to fund and execute our business plan and any ethanol plant expansion or completion projects, our ability to receive or renew permits to construct or commence operations of our proposed capacity additions in a timely manner, or at all, laws, tariffs, trade or other controls or enforcement practices applicable to our operations, changes in weather and general economic conditions, overcapacity within the ethanol, biodiesel and petroleum refining industries, availability and costs of products and raw materials, particularly corn, coal and natural gas and the subsequent impact on margins, our ability to raise additional capital and secure additional financing, our ability to service our debt or comply with our debt covenants, our ability to attract, motivate and retain key employees, liability resulting from actual or potential future litigation or the outcome of any litigation with respect to our auction rate securities or otherwise, and plant shutdowns or disruptions.

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