growth energy
America's Ethanol Supporters

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June 24, 2020

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

Thank you for holding today's important hearing to discuss key agriculture contributions to future discussions on climate policy. We appreciate this opportunity to submit comments.

Growth Energy is the leading biofuel trade association in the country and represents more than 100 ethanol producers and 96 associate members along the supply chain. Our ethanol producers work to bring consumers better choices at the fuel pump, grow America's economy, and improve the environment for future generations. Annually, our industry purchases more than 5 billion bushels of corn and sorghum to produce nearly 16 billion gallons of biofuel and more than 38 million tons of dried distiller grains. Accordingly, we have a strong interest in the future success of American agriculture.

Our producers and farmer suppliers provide significant benefits to our nation's environment. With many states and localities increasingly exploring public policy options to lower carbon emissions, the use of biofuels can immediately contribute to lowering greenhouse gas emissions, reduce harmful air toxics, and provide affordable solutions to consumers and lawmakers alike. These benefits are significantly attributed to innovations in agricultural practices like reduced tillage, use of cover crops, and continued ethanol plant innovation. There have also been multiple studies confirming these facts:

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture[1] found that ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 39% compared to traditional gasoline, and by 2022, the agency anticipates corn ethanol's relative carbon benefits could reach up to 70%.

[1] "The greenhouse gas benefits of corn ethanol—assessing recent evidence." *Biofuels*. Jan Lewandrowski, Jeffrey Rosenfeld, Diana Pape, Tommy Hendrickson, Kirsten Jaglo, Katrin Moffroid (2020). 11:3, 361-375, DOI: 10.1080/17597269.2018.1546488

- A University of California—Riverside study[2] found that ethanol blends reduce toxic emissions by up to 50%, including smog and ultra-fine particulates.
- A University of Illinois at Chicago study[3] found replacing traditional gasoline with E10 reduces toxic emissions by 15%, while E20 could reduce toxins by 31.7%.

Programs such as the Renewable Fuel Standard as well as the continued expansion of higher biofuel blends like E15 and E85 can advance environmental progress and provide meaningful markets for American agriculture well into the future. We hope as your committee continues to explore agriculture's role in climate policy you will continue to recognize and promote the role of biofuels for our nation's farmers and consumers now and into the future. Thank you and we look forward to working with you on these important initiatives.

Sincerely,

Emily Skor
CEO, Growth Energy

[2]"Investigating the Effect of Varying Ethanol and Aromatic Fuel Blends on Secondary Organic Aerosol Forming Potential for a FFV-GDI Vehicle. *University of California—Riverside Chemical and Environmental Engineering*. Patrick Roth, Jiacheng Yang, Ayla Moretti, Tom Durbin, David Cocker, Georgios Karavalakis, Akua Asa-Awuku. https://fixourfuel.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/UC-Riverside-Study.pdf.

[3]"The Impact of Higher Ethanol Blend Levels on Vehicle Emissions in Five Global Cities." *U.S. Grains Council*. Dr. Steffen Mueller at University of Illinois at Chicago. Grains.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Complete-Study-Summary.pdf.