

Statement of Emily Skor, CEO, Growth Energy

EPA's Hearing on Proposed Renewable Fuel Standards for 2023, 2024, and 2025

January 10, 2023

Good morning.

I am Emily Skor, CEO of Growth Energy, the nation's largest association of biofuel producers, representing 90 bioethanol plants and 108 businesses throughout the value chain.

The Renewable Fuel Standard continues to be one of our nation's most successful domestic climate and energy policies. We are grateful to President Biden and EPA Administrator Regan for keeping clean energy on an upward trajectory that will move America closer to a net-zero future. As we saw last year, biofuels remain the single best tool available to shield motorists from volatile global oil prices and rapidly decarbonize the transportation sector.

We are greatly encouraged by EPA's strong Set proposal with implied conventional biofuel volumes at fifteen billion gallons for 2023 and increasing to fifteen point two five (15.25) billion gallons for 2024 and 2025. We also strongly support the agency's continued action to end abuse of small refinery exemptions and finally restore 250 million gallons illegally waived in 2016.

Moving forward, our opportunities for growth across both conventional and advanced biofuels are linked, so it is important that the proposed volumes reflect industry growth and innovation.

Specifically, we ask that EPA clear the backlog of pathway approvals for renewable fuels, including cellulosic biofuels from kernel fiber, advanced biofuels from corn oil produced at bioethanol wet mills, and bioethanol produced using carbon capture technologies.

We also ask that EPA account for innovation in the biofuels industry, which requires updated lifecycle emissions modeling to reflect the best available science on low-carbon bioethanol that will be used not only to decarbonize our on-road fleet, but also for sustainable aviation fuel.

Finally, while not directly addressed under this proposal, EPA must continue to work to allow the sale of E15 year-round and finalize its proposal to broaden use of existing retail infrastructure and simplify E15 labeling. Last summer, President Biden wisely responded to surging fuel prices with a temporary E15 waiver, estimating working families would save up to 10 cents per gallon. In fact, drivers saved on average 16 cents per gallon, and nearly a dollar per gallon in some parts of the country. We can maximize biofuels' ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving consumers money at the pump by allowing the sale of E15 year-round.

We look forward to EPA finalizing the Set proposal by our June 14, 2023 consent decree deadline and to a Set rule that taps the full potential of the RFS.

America's biofuel producers and our farm partners are ready to lead the charge on climate and energy solutions, and a firm commitment to growth will offer regulatory certainty and predictability in the years ahead.

Thank you for your consideration.