2025 USGBC Global Ethanol Summit, Global Leadership on Ethanol's Future
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I. Introduction & Acknowledgments

Thank you, [name],

And thank you to our host, the **U.S. Grains and BioProducts Council**.

For many countries around the world, the **USGBC** is the **face** of the American bioethanol industry.

And we are proud to have them **represent us**.

This is an organization that serves as the **primary conduit** through which **bioethanol producers** engage with foreign government officials, dignitaries, and business leaders.

They bring a **65-year track record** of trust, understanding, and cultural awareness that reflects positively on all of us.

At Growth Energy we think those things are important, and so we are **honored to partner** with U.S. Grains.

My name is Emily Skor, and I'm the CEO of Growth Energy.

We're the largest biofuel trade association in the U.S. and in the world,

and we represent **nearly 100** American biorefineries that produce **nearly 10 billion gallons**, or **38 billion liters** of bioethanol.

I've led this organization for nearly a decade, and today, I can confidently say

that bioethanol's future ***has never been clearer***... *and our outlook has never been more positive*.

We deliver a more **affordable**, **high-octane** fuel choice...

that can be used in the **more than a billion gas-powered cars and trucks** on roads around the globe today.

We offer a fuel that **cuts harmful emissions** and **supports global agriculture**, all while **saving drivers money**.

All over the world—from **Canada** and **Brazil**, to **India** and **Japan**—countries are increasing their commitments to use **more bioethanol**, at higher blends.

They're ramping up trade, and building their own **production capacity**.

And we **applaud** them for it.

As the saying goes, a **rising tide lifts all boats**,

and a growing global market for bioethanol is good for farmers, producers, drivers, and the environment.

Here in the U.S., we're inspired by the progress being made abroad,

and our industry has its **own progress** and **momentum** to add to the **global narrative** of growing demand.

A higher blend of bioethanol is now legal in all **50 states**, our average blend rate continues to trend upward,

and last year, we set a **new record for exports**—a record we are on track to break this year.

The U.S. maintains a **strong bioethanol trade surplus**, but we're also the **sixth-largest importer** of biofuels globally by value.

As the **global middle class rises**, so too will demand for **affordable**, **accessible**, **clean energy**.

We believe in the **power of our product** to deliver on all of these fronts.

We want to be viewed as **partners** to other nations seeking to **achieve their energy goals** while also building up their **own domestic** bioethanol industries.

For those countries taking their **first steps** into the world of bioethanol, the U.S. was once in the same position you are today.

With **steady support** from policymakers, **innovation**, and an **openness** to partnerships to help us achieve our goals,

we built American bioethanol from a **regional specialty** into a **global powerhouse**.

We want to encourage that kind of progress in countries all over the world.

And we have the support of our elected leaders here in **Washington, D.C**.

II. Support at Home and The New Trade Paradigm

On the **first day** of his presidency, President Trump signed an order that specifically identified **bioethanol** as a key part of his energy agenda.

And since then, the administration has put those **words into action**—
enacting policies geared toward helping the U.S. blend **more bioethanol** than it ever has before.

Congress has followed suit, by ***supporting*** **incentives** designed to help us **invest** and **innovate** to decarbonize our already low-carbon fuel.

And in doing so, ***recognizing*** the critical importance of our industry to rural communities across the country.

Our biofuel **support** at all levels of government is **unprecedented**.

And the **outlook** for this industry is so bright largely because our support is **bipartisan**.

But American bioethanol isn't just a noteworthy part of the president's **energy agenda**, or just a cure for rural America's **economic challenges**.

It's also a **key** that could help **unlock trade success** in the Trump era.

To say the president is focused on trade would be an **understatement**.

The actions of his administration have been **consequential** to say the least, but ultimately what they're focused on is "**more**."

More **business**,
more **deals**,
more **agreements**, and
more **trade** generally.

This is something we can all agree on—we all want **more trade** and **more productive partnerships** worldwide.
And for countries who are maybe **looking for a way in**, bioethanol might be it.

One of the administration's key points of focus has been **trade deficits**.

They want to sign **bilateral trade deals** to correct what they see as **imbalances** between the U.S. and other countries.

Bioethanol is a way to do that.

As I said, our industry has a **trade surplus**, which hit nearly **four billion dollars** last year.

Any country looking to engage with the current administration on trade right now is doing themselves a **disservice** if they don't put bioethanol at the **center** of their **sales pitch**.

This administration has demonstrated that they're **willing to talk** with any country willing to come to the table.
And, the successful bilateral negotiations that we've already seen have **significant upside** for bioethanol.

Countries that engage will **expedite the process** of reaching an agreement that **benefits both sides**

and **paves the way** for strong trade relationships for years to come.

Starting those conversations with bioethanol is a **simple tactic** for countries to immediately show that they're speaking the **administration's language**.

The American bioethanol industry is, and wants to continue to be, a **trustworthy**, **long-term partner** with the international community.

We are **ready and eager** to help more countries advance their own energy security, affordability, and sustainability goals.

And we can be the key that helps to **unlock new trade deals** with the United States.

III. American Bioethanol's Advantages

Beyond offering a way forward that appeals directly to this administration's **trade goals**,

there are many **other reasons** for countries around the world to invest in bioethanol.

In the U.S., I can think of three.

The first reason is **volume**.

Right now, in the U.S., we're currently sitting on nearly **eight billion liters** of **unused bioethanol capacity**.

And with gas-powered vehicles getting more efficient… and electrification rising…

we will increasingly have the capacity to build on our exports and meet the **needs** and **demands** of our **trading partners**.

Corn yields continue to increase as well,
meaning the bioethanol industry can rely on a **steady supply of feedstocks** to produce what the global economy demands.

The second advantage is our ability to reliably balance **productivity** and **sustainability.**

Over the last four decades, American corn farmers improved their **land use efficiency** by 44%…

while cutting their **water** and **energy use** by more than half.

And they're aiming to further boost those numbers by up to **15%** by the end of this decade.

Bioethanol producers have also made considerable strides.

In the last two decades, they've **halved** the amount of water usage for bioethanol production.

And over a recent 15-year span, they **increased yields by two percent per year**.
Our industry uses the **best farming** and **biorefining practices** available—**without** sacrificing quantity, quality, or environmental bona fides.

Our third advantage is our **decarbonization potential.**

Bioethanol is **a clean, low carbon fuel**. And it's getting ***even cleaner***.

Here in the U.S., …. in that same **15-year span** that our producers increased bioethanol yields two percent per year, …. they also *reduced* their carbon intensity by **20 percent**.

And that was largely *before* our industry began to understand that decarbonization should be a **strategic priority.**

Today, **carbon is currency** in international markets.

Our industry wants to meet these markets where they're headed.

And we have many ways to do it.

We have a **range of pathways** we could take to reach ***net-zero*** by 2035… and ***net-negative*** by 2050.

I'll focus on three innovations in particular that deliver some significant reductions:

Carbon capture and sequestration…

Clean power…

And the use of **cover crops** while growing corn feedstock.

Carbon capture and sequestration ***alone*** could decrease our product's carbon intensity ***by more than half!***

This isn't just theoretical.

Our members are moving quickly to incorporate carbon capture into their operations.

Some plants are already capturing and storing their **biogenic carbon** on site.

Many are preparing for sequestration **on site** or **off site**.

The rest are committed to reusing this **important co-product.**

Carbon capture is a critical decarbonization technology—it shows up in virtually **every energy transition model.**

Our industry can play a part in commercializing it.

IV. The Value of Decarbonization Potential: The Long-Term Competitiveness of Rural America

Now, you may be wondering: what's the value of **decarbonization potential** given this **political moment** in the U.S.?

Well, when it comes to bioethanol—*both Democrats and Republicans are getting behind it*.

In 2022 under President Biden, the U.S. established a clean fuel production tax credit to benefit bioethanol producers.

This year, under President Trump, the U.S. **extended** and **enhanced** that same tax credit.

This makes it one of the **very few provisions** supported by **both parties**.

And that is thanks to the **coalition we helped build**—spanning energy, transportation, and agriculture.

The different players in this coalition are motivated by different goals, from energy security, to fuel affordability, to economic development.

Yet everyone involved understands the central importance of the **American farmer**,

When we invest in bioethanol, we're investing in the **rural economy**.

Supporting farmers.
Boosting **GDP.**

And creating a supply chain that **starts and stops on domestic soil**.

I want to say though… those aren't uniquely American goals.

These are the same things that motivate many of you;

they're the same things that **every nation** on earth wants to build for themselves…a stronger agricultural sector and a **vibrant rural economy**.

Today,…. here in Washington, D.C….. we're talking less about reducing "carbon emissions" and more about creating markets for farmers and American workers.

But, the results are the same—our product is benefiting rural communities while simultaneously becoming a **more potent tool** to achieve environmental goals.

V. Global Market Signals and How We Measure

There's no question that to compete in the global economy, you have to be thinking about **sustainability** and **going low-carbon**.

We can see countries worldwide continuing to refine their carbon reduction commitments.

We can see airlines and logistics companies eager to find ways to hit *their* decarbonization targets.

And we can see governments like the EU rolling out mandates for **sustainable aviation** and **maritime fuels**.

These are **clear market signals.**

They're telling us that not only is the opportunity for bioethanol on roads around the world rising…

There is real long-term potential in SAF, sustainable marine fuels, and renewable diesel.

If we want to **meet the economy where it's headed**,
and take advantage of all this **potential**, we have to keep making bioethanol *even lower-carbon*.

But… if the value of our product is based on its carbon intensity… Then ***how* we measure matters**.

It has to be

- **fair** and **accurate**.
- Based on the best available **real-world science**.
- And updated regularly to account for the latest **industry innovations**.

Unfortunately, international carbon modeling all too often **falls short of that level of rigor**.

It tends to rely on ***predictions*** over **real world *practice***.

And the **rules and regulations** that are tied to these international models often discourage the use of American bioethanol—all based on **outdated, disproven assumptions**.

We've spent several years educating policymakers here in the U.S. on these **shortcomings**.

And that is a big reason why the U.S. tax incentives for bioethanol use the GREET model developed by our **Argonne National Labs**.

That model is **updated annually** to include *the most comprehensive data available* on *actual farming* and *manufacturing practices*.

Importantly, it accounts for all the **lifecycle benefits** of the **co-products** that go along with bioethanol production.

High protein animal feed like dried distillers grains are critical for the U.S. livestock industry, and an increasingly valuable export product.

Corn oil is a co-product that can be used as a feedstock for renewable diesel.

And **biogenic carbon** can be sold to food and beverage companies, among others.

All of these products reduce lifecycle emissions, and they deserve to be **recognized** and **rewarded**.

The GREET model accounts for all of them.

Now, adopting the **right measurement tool** is especially important for the SAF and sustainable marine fuels markets, which are still in their infancy.

Both face the same **core challenge**: figuring out how to bridge the gulf between supply and demand.

And while part of the answer lies in advancing technology and **bold, creative financing**…

We also need **supportive**, **well-crafted policies** to align incentives…

and give **early movers** confidence that investment in nascent technologies will generate a **real return**.

Because the goal is *more*—

*more **incentives***,
for *more **investment***,
in *more **technologies***
to tap *more **feedstocks***.

And to achieve it, we need models that are **thorough**, rules that are **consistent**… and regulations that are **grounded in science**.

Today the same drop of fuel is given a different carbon intensity score from **San Francisco** to **Ottawa** to **Frankfurt**.

This huge disparity ultimately **inhibits global trade**.

A large part of our work with the **U.S. Grains and BioProducts Council** has been to educate policymakers in other countries on the importance of modeling…

But we can't be the only ones delivering this message—**we need your help**.

Instead of working in isolation, our nations and our industries must work together

to **build momentum** and **maximize the potential** of consistent environmental modeling to spur more **investment** and more **innovation** around the globe.

VI. Close/Partnerships

So whether we're talking about affordable, low-carbon **on-road fuels today**…

or tomorrow's **next-generation liquid-fuels**, like SAF or sustainable marine fuel…

American bioethanol producers are able to **step up** and **deliver for these markets**.

Each one of them poses a multi-**billion-liter** challenge, and they all need a *multi-**billion-liter solution***.

That's what our **members can provide**.

And that is why **bioethanol's future is bright**—not just in the U.S., but all over the world.

We still need **smart policy** and **strong partnerships**—particularly between the private sector and governments.

So I ask each of you to **embrace** and **engage** in **public-private partnerships**.

I encourage you to advocate for **more conversations** between your governments and the private sector

about **effective support** for the bioethanol market, whether that's for applications on the **road**, in the **air**, or out **at sea**.

And I ask you to foster **greater dialogue** between your governments and ours.

I can assure you we are bringing this message to **our government** each and every day.

We want them to know that other countries **want our products**, and that we're **ready to meet the moment**.

Because ultimately, we want you… to **succeed**.

We want you… to achieve the **environmental goals** you've set out for yourselves.

We want you… to reach your full **potential**.

And American bioethanol is willing and eager to help you get there.

Thank you again to the **U.S. Grains and BioProducts Council** for bringing us all together today,

and thank you all for being here.

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