



February 17, 2021

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Jamie Beyer, and I'm a farmer from Wheaton and the president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. MSGA represents the interests of our state's nearly 28,000 soybean farmers, and is the first state affiliate of the American Soybean Association. Most of Minnesota's soybean farmers are also corn farmers; as proponents of the renewable fuels industry, we wish to express our full support for the Minnesota Corn Growers Association's efforts to increase Minnesota's existing biofuel standard from 10 to 15 percent.

By increasing the ethanol standard to 15 percent, Minnesota once again has a unique opportunity to remain at the forefront of the nation's biofuels policy. The move to E-15 would make Minnesota the first state in the country to embrace this standard, just like we were the first state to require ethanol-blended fuels nearly a quarter-century ago. In 2003, policy was expanded to set a statewide ethanol standard of 10 percent. Around the same time, Minnesota also was ahead of the curve by setting a minimum blending requirement for biodiesel. Simply put, we are leaders – not followers – in Minnesota when it comes to biofuels. We are proud to see both ethanol and biodiesel enjoy broad bipartisan support throughout the Legislature and the Walz administration.

Minnesota's people, its economy and environment will see a plethora of benefits from embracing this new ethanol standard. This higher blend of biofuel provides consumers higher octane, lower cost and reduced tailpipe emissions. The marketplace is already prepared for such a move: 90 percent of cars on Minnesota's roads are compatible with a 15 percent blend of biofuel, and auto makers provide full warranty coverage for 15 percent biofuel blended fuel for more than 93 percent of vehicles sold today. Minnesota currently produces 1.27 billion gallons of ethanol each year. Approximately 25 percent of current production is consumed in-state, while the other 75 percent is exported to other jurisdictions. Thus, Minnesota can easily meet a five percent increase in the biofuel standard with existing in-state production capacity.

This homegrown fuel is also an economic champion. Minnesota's ethanol industry already supports nearly 19,000 full-time jobs, contributing more than \$1.5 billion in income for Minnesota households.

On the environmental front, ethanol is an undisputed winner. According to U.S. Departments of Energy and Agriculture, current biofuel production reduces carbon emissions by 43 percent compared to gasoline. On the biodiesel side, using B20 (20 percent biodiesel) in the summer months and B5 in the winter already equates removing the emissions from nearly 230,000 vehicles from Minnesota roads each year. Together, corn and soybean producers are helping to improve Minnesota's economy and environment, and we are eager to work together to address those challenges and opportunities in the years to come.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Jamie Beyer  
President, Minnesota Soybean Growers Association