

Michigan Corn Growers Association



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## **Michiganders to highlight enormous benefits of Renewable Fuel Standard**

*Thursday EPA hearing in Kansas City will include four speakers from Michigan*

LANSING – Corn farmers, small business owners and consumers from all walks of life will come together Thursday in Kansas City at a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hearing on the future of America’s Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Four Michiganders will be among those delivering testimony in opposition to EPA’s proposal to reduce the RFS.

“It’s important for Michigan to have a strong voice at Thursday’s hearing on the flawed EPA proposal to reduce the Renewable Fuel Standard, which would hinder America’s growing biofuels industry,” said **Jim Zook**, executive director of the **Michigan Corn Growers Association**. “Ethanol strengthens the rural economy, creates thousands of jobs and saves every Michigan consumer at the pump. We want to be sure that EPA understands what rolling back the RFS would mean for Michigan communities and families.”

[Click here for the testimony from Michigan speakers being delivered to EPA at Thursday’s hearing.](#)

In addition to **Zook**, EPA officials will hear from three other Michiganders at the hearing:

- **Jeff Sandborn**, a corn farmer near Portland and chairman of the **National Corn Growers Association** Ethanol Committee;
- **Gabe Corey**, commodities risk manager for Lake Odessa-based **Carbon Green BioEnergy**; and
- **Sally Stricker**, a Portland resident, who will testify on the money she has saved since switching to high-blend E85 fuel.

**Joshua Clayton**, owner of **H&H Mobil** in East Lansing, will not testify in person, but will submit written testimony.

Ethanol production provides enormous benefits across Michigan – contributing to our state’s rural economy, saving consumers money at the pump and creating more than 22,000 jobs. Ethanol use in Michigan has been linked to healthier families and cleaner air, water and Great Lakes. And ethanol boosts America’s energy security, preventing more than \$44 billion every year from being sent to pay for foreign oil.

On May 29, the EPA proposed Renewable Volume Obligations under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for 2014, 2015 and 2016 that would reduce the amount of biofuels blended into America’s fuel supply.

**Following are excerpts from the testimony being delivered Thursday. [You can view the full testimony here.](#)**

**Jim Zook:** “Michigan is home to five ethanol facilities. Every ethanol facility in our state buys their corn locally, usually within a two-hour drive of the plant. Thanks to local ethanol production, corn growers have a local market for our product. This is especially important at a time when corn prices in Michigan, and nationwide, are below the cost of production. Ethanol production is also important for the rural communities we call home.”

**Gabe Corey:** “At Carbon Green BioEnergy, we employ more than 40 local workers in high-skill positions. These jobs allow our employees, many of whom are from the area, to make a living in rural Michigan and do work that benefits folks across the nation. In addition to the jobs we create directly, Carbon Green BioEnergy has a far-reaching impact on our local economy. We use corn grown on more than 500 Michigan farms to produce our ethanol. We also contract locally for as many services as possible. This includes everything from professional services like banking and advertising, to office supplies and uniforms, to industrial needs like welding. We buy Michigan-made, and American-made, first.”

**Sally Stricker:** “Today, I fill up on E85 every time, and it’s saving me more than \$80 every month. Let me tell you, being a single mom and saving that amount of money is a big deal. I am also lucky that the gas station down the road from my home has the Yellow Hose. I have personally thanked Bernie, the general manager, for carrying it. At 70 cents less a gallon, I have more money in my wallet.”

**Jeff Sandborn:** “Ethanol is made in Michigan using corn from local farms like mine, helping provide a boost to the agricultural economy at a time when corn prices are below the cost of production. Across Michigan, the RFS is responsible for pumping more than \$1.1 billion back into our communities and creating more than 22,000 good jobs – many of them in small towns. I’ve seen first-hand how the RFS has revitalized rural Michigan and I know rural areas in other states across the country have similar stories.”

**Joshua Clayton:** “Since my father-in-law started H&H Mobil in the 1960’s, we have been motivated by some very simple guiding principles. We want to provide the best service for our customers, and we want to offer them affordable prices. Thanks to the RFS and ethanol-blended fuels, we’re able to do both. Every day, I see firsthand the benefits ethanol provides for consumers and families in East Lansing. Ethanol saves money at the pump, and allows families to spend more on the things that are important in their lives. Ethanol also provides health benefits for our families, and protects our air, land and Great Lakes.”

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