



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28, 2015

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Michigan Receives \$3 million USDA Grant for Biofuel Pump Infrastructure

LANSING – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that Michigan will receive a \$3 million grant to install infrastructure needed to supply more renewable fuel to Michigan drivers. The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) lead the grant effort and partnered with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and local retailers to apply for the grant money.

“We’re excited to work with the USDA and retailers in Michigan to offer more consumer choices at the pump,” said **Jim Zook**, executive director of CMPM. “Ethanol is locally produced, it’s cleaner burning than oil and it saves consumers money at the pump. This boost to our infrastructure will help grow Michigan’s ethanol industry, which is ultimately a win for Michigan families and for Michigan farmers.”

The grant will allow Michigan to install 89 additional flex fuel pumps offering a range of fuels from E-15, which contains 15 percent ethanol, up to E-85, which contains 85 percent ethanol. According to a USDA press release, the grant will nearly double the number of fueling pumps nationwide that supply renewable fuels to American motorists.

In a statement today, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said: “This major investment in renewable energy infrastructure will give Americans more options that not only will suit their pocketbooks, but also will reduce our country’s environmental impact and bolster our rural economy. The Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership is one more example of how federal funds can be leveraged by state and private partners to deliver better and farther reaching outcomes for taxpayers. The volume and diverse geographic locations of partners willing to support this infrastructure demonstrate the demand across the country for lower cost, cleaner, American-made fuels. Consumers will begin to see more of these pumps in a matter of months.”

Michigan is one of 21 states receiving grant money under the Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership, which awarded a total of \$100 million in grants. Those grants were matched by an additional \$110 million in matching commitments from states and private partners.

Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia-Maryland (jointly), West Virginia and Wisconsin also received grants.

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