



March 3, 2022

Dear Representative/Senator:

When it comes to energy, climate change and agriculture issues, the 40,000 dues-paying corn farmers of the National Corn Growers Association and the 300,000 farmers who contribute to corn promotion programs in their states provide solutions, thanks to the sustainability and productivity progress we have made and continue to build on.

As a farmer from Iowa, I'm proud of our leadership when it comes to increased yields that produce more corn with less land and resources, continued expansion of climate-smart agriculture practices, and the market demand corn farmers meet, from food, feed, and exports to low-carbon ethanol and biobased products, as I testified to the House Agriculture Committee this week. We've recently seen misinformation about corn production and ethanol shared on Capitol Hill, so I wanted you to have the most accurate information when it comes to the facts about today's farms, corn production, and renewable ethanol.

Energy Security

Just like your constituents, corn farmers are concerned about rising fuel prices. **Fuel costs are driven by oil prices**, which are high and could rise further with Russia's harmful actions against Ukraine. When it comes to costs, **blending more ethanol, not less, is an immediate step to help lower fuel prices.**

- Ethanol is currently priced 70 cents less per gallon than gasoline, making it the low-cost fuel component.
- Ethanol blending extends the fuel supply, lowering demand for high-cost oil while increasing total fuel available to consumers.
- Using more homegrown ethanol reduces the impact of global energy disruptions.



When consumers have access to higher ethanol blends like E15, often marketed as Regular 88 or Unleaded 88, they **save up to 10 cents per gallon or more**, and save even more with E85 Flex Fuel, as you can see here.

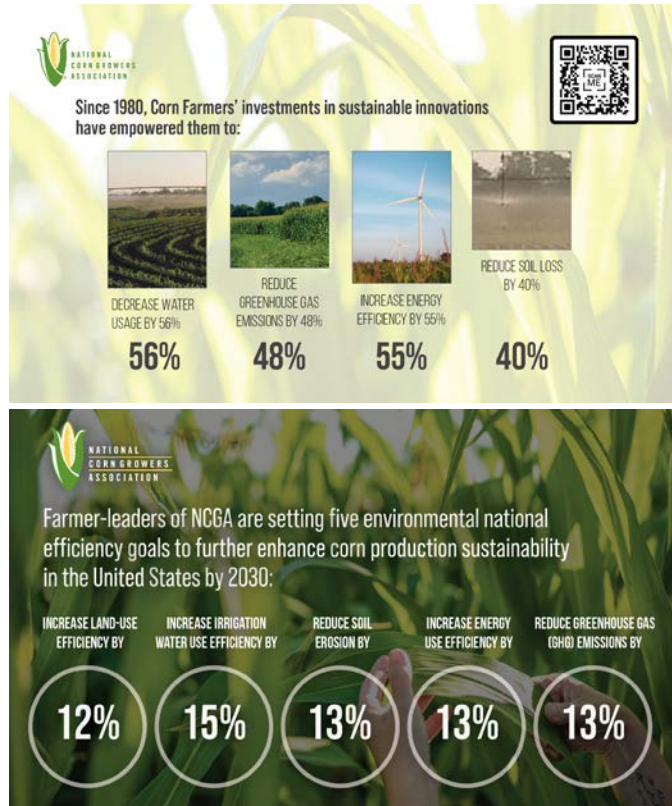
- We ask Congress to **restore full market access for E15**, which the oil industry reversed in court last year, by passing [H.R. 4410/S. 2339](#) or working with EPA on solutions, allowing consumers to access lower-price, lower-emission fuels that increase supply to keep costs down. EPA has approved E15 for all 2001 and newer vehicles.
- Looking forward, Congress should consider policies to **enhance energy security and decarbonize transportation** such as The Next Generation Fuels Act, [H.R. 5089](#), which creates a pathway for higher ethanol blends through a low carbon, high octane fuel standard, further insulating U.S. consumers from the global oil market and cutting their fuel costs with lower carbon fuel.

Sustainable Solutions

Not only does ethanol help lower fuel costs, **ethanol is also nearly 50 percent lower in greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline** and **replaces the most toxic gasoline components** that cause harmful tailpipe pollution impacts on health. **Farmers are shrinking ethanol's carbon footprint**, thanks to increased yields that result in more corn produced on less land with fewer resources.

NCGA's Corn Sustainability Report outlines how far we've come and our commitment to continued progress by 2030.

- Farmers are key to achieving **net-zero emission ethanol**, as we produce more with less, thanks to our on-farm innovation and technology advances.
- Farmers planted fewer acres to corn in 2021 than they did in 2007, yet produced 16 percent more corn in 2021, **due to higher yields, not more land**
- Across America, the total acres planted to principal crops are less today than in 2000.
- **Corn yield increased by an average of 25 bushels per acre since 2007**, and our productivity continues to grow around 2 percent, or 250 million bushels, per year.



Corn farmers are leaders when it comes to conservation and best management practices, planting cover crops, reducing and eliminating tillage, and using precision technology to reduce inputs and place inputs only where needed. In addition to reducing the carbon intensity of ethanol, **our production practices protect and enhance both soil and water quality.**

As you review environmental, energy and agriculture policy, please consider NCGA a resource. **Farmers are committed to both feeding and fueling a growing world.** If you want to learn more about today's corn and ethanol production, you can always ask a farmer.

Sincerely,

Chris Edgington, President
National Corn Growers Association