



**Ohio House of Representatives
Ways and Means Committee
H.B. 324 Proponent Testimony
John Settlemyre, Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
December 12, 2023**

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the committee, I'm here today on behalf of the Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association (OCWGA). Our association represents the interests of more than 25,000 Ohio grain producers, and on their behalf, I am grateful for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill 324.

I'm John Settlemyre, a farmer from Clinton county, and I currently serve as President of the Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association. Our association serves as the voice of our membership in policy matters at both the state and federal levels.

Each year, our grower members have the opportunity to market their corn to Ohio's seven ethanol plants which have capacity to produce more than 732 million gallons of fuel grade ethanol annually. Since the first Ohio ethanol plant opened in 2008, the market kick-started by this industry both in Ohio and nationally has contributed to the stability of local grain markets – adding more than \$1.00 of value to each bushel grown by our members. Coupled with livestock and exports, ethanol production diversifies and strengthens our market opportunities and helps our small businesses thrive.

But ethanol means much more to our members personally than positive numbers on a balance sheet. For family farms like mine, this added value means we can continue to grow and pass along our passion for agriculture to the next generation. Ohio's grain farmers are committed to clean air, clean water and healthy soils. Ethanol has played a critical role in improving air quality across the nation. Ethanol blended products, which fuel more than 98% of vehicle miles driven each year, have contributed to a 40 million metric ton per year decrease in carbon emissions. That's the equivalent of removing more than 8 million cars from our roads every year. Recent scientific studies show that ethanol offers a 46% reduction in harmful emissions compared to traditional petroleum fuels¹. By encouraging higher blends of ethanol at the pump, we will promote an even healthier future for our children.

Lastly, I'd like to speak to you as a consumer in central Ohio. Currently, I have limited access to E-15, also known as Unleaded 88 gasoline. The bill you are considering today directly addresses this need by incentivizing retailers to make long-term investments in the infrastructure of their facilities. I firmly believe that when an average consumer sees the savings per gallon afforded by Unleaded 88, typically 15 cents per gallon on average last summer, they will opt in and make a positive economic decision for their families.

¹ "EH&E Study Shows Corn Ethanol Emits 46% Less Greenhouse Gases Than Gasoline – Finding Differs from Conventional Wisdom Suggesting Only 20%." Environmental Health & Engineering, September 15, 2023. <https://ehinc.com/news/corn-ethanol-emits-46-less-greenhouse-gases-than-gasoline/#:~:text=Research%20from%20EH%26E%20shows%20that,are%2046%25%20lower%20than%20gasoline.>



In summary, higher blends of ethanol offer further carbon emission reduction benefits, cleaner air, savings to consumers, and critical market stability to Ohio's grain producers and the broader rural economy. I urge you to support Ohio's grain farmers, our environment, and everyday consumers by supporting this important legislation.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 324. I'd be happy to answer any question you may have.