

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Bill Roemer Chairman, Ohio House Ways and Means Committee 77 S. High St. Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Roemer,

I write on behalf of the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) and its members in support of House Bill 324. This bill would authorize a temporary nonrefundable tax credit for the retail sale of high-ethanol blend motor fuel.

OSA is a member-driven, grassroots organization dedicated to improving the business climate for Ohio soybean farmers by providing leadership and advocating for sound policy at the state and national levels. As the fifth-largest soybean producing state, soybeans are an important part of Ohio's economy.

We support this bill because of the positive impact it will have on Ohio's grain farmers, many of which rotate between corn and soybeans for environmental benefits and increased yield. These grain farmers will benefit from the creation of a tax incentive for high-ethanol blend because it will help increase demand for corn.

Ohio's farmers are dedicated to being environmental stewards and are committed to clean air through the use and promotion of renewable fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel. Corn is the major feedstock used in ethanol and soybean oil is the main feedstock used in biodiesel. We support policies that allow more consumers to purchase cleaner burning fuel and contribute to healthier air quality while enhancing Ohio's economy. This bill will encourage those benefits and support Ohio farmers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact OSA's director of public affairs, Brandon Kern at bkern@soyohio.org.

Respectfully,

Rusty Goebel

Rusty Goebel

President, Ohio Soybean Association

Cc: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

State Representative Riordan McClain State Representative Roy Klopfenstein