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Ohio House Agriculture Committee
Interested Party Testimony | House Bill 96
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Chairman Creech, Vice Chairman Newman, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of an amendment to House Bill 96 to promote higher blends of ethanol, Ohio's homegrown fuel.

On average, Ohio ranks seventh in the nation for corn production, raising hundreds of millions of bushels on 3.5 million acres of prime farmland annually. That grain is then used to create high quality animal feed, renewable ethanol fuel, and more than 4,000 products on grocery store shelves. Despite those many domestic uses, we still export nearly one-third of Ohio's corn crop to international markets as well, meaning our farmers help feed and fuel the world.

But when we bring market opportunities for that grain closer to home, we make Ohio's family farmers more profitable, more competitive, and more resilient. That's why today I ask for your support of an amendment to HB 96 that would create a grant program under the Department of Agriculture to incentivize fuel retailers to offer higher blends of ethanol, such as E15, at their stations.

Commonly retailed as Unleaded 88, E15 fuel is approved for use in 96 percent of cars, trucks, and sport utility vehicles on the road today. It saves consumers money at the pump – an average of 25 cents per gallon nationally in 2023 – while also delivering higher octane levels suitable for modern engines. But for Ohio's corn farmers, higher sales of E15 directly translate to greater demand for their crop.

Supporting an E15 Access Grant administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture will lift farm incomes, help Ohioans keep more of their hard-earned money, and grow capital investments within the state. It will introduce real competition into local fuel markets and give consumers a safe, affordable, renewable fuel that many in the state cannot access yet.

Ohio's agricultural producers are positioned to play a meaningful role in tackling some of our state's toughest challenges. They produce abundantly and responsibly, and their products are reliable and proven. Yet we've barely scratched the surface of what can be done to utilize Ohio's agricultural products to make the necessities of life more affordable for Ohio's residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and your ongoing support of Ohio's farmers. With your support of this grant, we can and will do even more.

