



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

Chairman Merrin and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of Guardian Energy Lima, I write in support of House Bill 165. This legislation, which would authorize a temporary, non-refundable tax credit for the retail sale of high-ethanol blend fuel, will increase access to E15 which is a cleaner fuel, provide consumers with more options at the pump, and benefit farmers and Ohio's rural economy.

Guardian Energy operates three biofuel production facilities across the Midwest, including Guardian Lima here in Ohio. Our facilities produce ethanol, and by-products such as distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS), a livestock feed with high levels of protein, fat, and energy, and corn oil. Our Lima facility alone grinds 24 million bushels of corn and produces approximately 70 million gallons of ethanol a year. We purchase the corn from local farmers, which helps support Ohio's rural economy.

Ohio is one of the leading states in the nation in ethanol and corn production; however, it falls behind other states in terms of retailers selling E15. The temporary and limited tax credit proposed in HB 165 will incentivize retailers to install or convert pumps to sell higher blends of biofuels. This will increase consumer choice and consumer access to E15. Ohio consumers will benefit from additional choices at the pump. E15 on average is 5 to 10 cents less expensive per gallon than regular unleaded fuel, and it burns cleaner.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge the committee to support House Bill 165. Incentivizing retailers to increase access to higher blends of biofuels will benefit Ohioans on many fronts. It will provide Ohio consumers with more choices, and support Ohio's rural economy.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McCaherty
CEO, Guardian Energy Management

Guardian Janesville
4745 380th Avenue
Janesville, MN 56048
Ph: 507-234-5000
Fax: 507-234-5011

Guardian Energy Management
4385 Fountain Hills Dr NE, Ste 301
Prior Lake, MN 55372
Ph: 952-465-0230
Fax: 952- 465-0239

Hankinson Renewable Energy
9230 County Road 1
Hankinson, ND 58041
Ph: 701-242-9400
Fax: 701-242-9490

Guardian Lima
2485 Houx Parkway
Lima, OH 45804
Ph: 567-940-9500
Fax: 419-221-00