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**Ohio House of Representatives  
Ways and Means Committee  
H.B. 400 Proponent Testimony  
Kelly Harsh, Vice President, Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association  
February 11, 2020**

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the committee, on behalf of the Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association (OCWGA) and its more than 1,700 members, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill 400.

My name is Kelly Harsh, and I am proud to serve as a board member and Vice President of the Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association. Our association advocates on behalf of grain farmers across the Buckeye state and serves as the voice of our membership in policy matters at both the state and federal levels. In addition to my work with the association, I am a grain farmer in Delaware, Ohio. My family owned farm produces a significant amount of corn each growing season and we rely on ethanol production, distribution and retail as a stable market for our product. As a small business owner, I can tell you this market is critical to my bottom line.

Each year, I am afforded a choice between selling my product to the POET ethanol plant in Marion county, or seeking other markets. Consistently, POET provides an opportunity to sell my corn at a price between 10 and 25 cents more per bushel when compared to other customers. When you multiply that increased value across all the bushels we produce per acre, it is no wonder why POET and other ethanol producers become such a valued customer to the more than 5,000 Ohio farm families looking for opportunities to sell their corn.

But ethanol means much more to me personally than positive numbers on a balance sheet. As a mother of three, I'm deeply concerned for the environment and the world they and their children will inherit. Ohio's corn farmers are committed to clean air, clean water and healthy soils. Ethanol has played a critical role in improving air quality across the nation. Since the inception of the federal renewable fuel standard, ethanol blended products have contributed to a 40 million metric ton per year decrease in carbon emissions – the equivalent of removing 8 million cars from our roads. That renewable fuel standard of 10% blends in every gallon of unleaded gas already purchased has proven itself as a safe, sustainable fuel to meet our national environmental goals. 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. Currently, I have no access to E-15. 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 E-15, they will opt in and help us reach cleaner emissions goals through their own economic decisions.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 400. I urge you to support Ohio's farmers, our environment and everyday consumers by supporting this important legislation.

