



## Office of Representative Willis E. Blackshear Jr.

State Representative

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Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Brent and members of the House Agriculture Committee thank you for allowing me to present sponsor testimony for HB 549.

HB 549 is a straightforward bill that allows county auditors to implement a motor fuel quality testing program. Current law allows for the Director of Agriculture to establish a statewide motor fuel quality testing program, but currently there are no provisions that allow for this program at a county level. By allowing our county auditors to conduct this program we are incorporating local control into this issue, and empowering our county auditors to make sure gas and diesel fuel retailers are accountable for the products they are selling.

When consumers are putting gas into their car, they want to be assured that the product they are putting into their vehicle is safe, and that they are not being "sold short." By allowing our county auditors to implement this program they can give local consumers an enhanced peace of mind knowing that the fuel they are using has been checked and is accurate. Lastly, since this bill is permissive it would not require every county auditor to immediately implement this program. Each individual county auditor can make their own determination about the feasibility of implementing this program and the potential benefits to their constituents.

Thank you again members of the committee for allowing me to present testimony for HB 549.