



## GUARDIAN ENERGY



Honorable Senator Blessing  
1 Capitol Square, Room 041  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of Guardian Energy Lima, I write in support of House Bill 324. 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 com oil. Our Lima facility alone grinds 26 million bushels of com and produces approximately 80 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 324 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. From Memorial Day to Labor Day 2023, Americans saved an average of 15 cents per gallon with E15 compared to standard E10 gasoline, with savings reaching 40 cents per gallon at some stations in Ohio. In addition to the cost savings, the environmental benefits of higher ethanol blends are well documented, with low carbon intensity and pollutants.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge the committee to support House Bill 324. 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

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