

June 1, 2022

The Honorable Mike Shirkey  
Senate Majority Leader  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Jason Wentworth  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Jim Ananich  
Senate Minority Leader  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Donna Lasinski  
House Democratic Leader  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 814**

Leaders of the Michigan Legislature:

On behalf of the agriculture community, job creators and champions for energy security and the environment across Michigan, we write to you today in support of SB 814, a bill that would boost homegrown biofuels, reduce emissions, and lower prices at the pump.

Over the past two years, Michigan's economy has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, inflation, and rising fuel costs due to America's addiction to foreign oil. In fact, oil prices have been rising steeply from around \$70 per barrel to well over \$100 per barrel. As Russia's war on Ukraine continues, turmoil in the global oil market could increase dramatically, imposing even greater costs on consumers and threatening U.S. energy security.

Senator Kevin Daley's bill, SB 814, represents an important opportunity for Michigan lawmakers to help boost production of homegrown biofuels and protect motorists by expanding sales E15 and E85, popular ethanol blends. Specifically, the bill will offer qualifying retailers a tax credit for every gallon sold of higher ethanol blends, including \$0.05 per gallon of E15 and \$0.085 per gallon of E85.

The legislation would cut fuel costs and open new markets for Michigan farmers, all while reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels. In fact, statewide E15 – which typically saves drivers 10 cents or more per gallon – would drive dependable new demand for more than 78 million bushels of grain annually for Michigan farmers. It also would slash Michigan greenhouse emissions by 580,000 metric tons.

Now more than ever, it's important for Michigan lawmakers to stand up for farmers, low-carbon biofuels, and the broader agricultural community by promoting new markets for homegrown biofuels. That is why we urge you to work quickly to send SB 814 to the governor's desk. Thank you for your attention to these important issues and for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Zook, Executive Director, Michigan Corn Growers Association

Chuck Lippstreu, President, Michigan Agri-Business Association

Bob Thompson, President, Michigan Farmers Union

Jane McCurry, Executive Director, Clean Fuels Michigan

Hank Choate, Owner, Belly Acres Farms, Cement City, MI

Greg Ackerman, Owner, Ackerman & Son, LLC., Vassar, MI

Kathy Berden, Co-Owner, Berden Organics, Snover, MI

Dennis Kellogg, Owner, Kellogg Farms, Ithaca, MI

Larry Metzgar, Owner, Metzgar Farms, Ceresco, MI