

Dear 2015 Iowa Ag Summit Speakers, Policymakers and President Hopefuls:

We, the undersigned, represent the agricultural industry's diverse value chain, but share one unifying goal: to increase production of renewable energy in Iowa and the nation. Our collective hope is that as you convene to discuss matters of importance to Iowa agriculture, renewable energy will be a primary topic of conversation.

Iowa ranks near the top in the United States in the production of renewable energy. Ethanol and biodiesel have historically played an important role, where biofuel industries have added \$13.1 billion to Iowa's economy, generated \$4.1 billion in new household income, and created and supported 62,000 jobs statewide. Overall, Iowa accounts for 30 percent of total U.S. biofuels production.

Iowa is also among the top three states in the nation in wind production. With nearly 5,200 megawatts of capacity online, wind makes up 27 percent of the state's total electricity generation, enough to power nearly 1.5 million homes. With capital investment of \$10 billion, the sector supports up to 4,000 direct and indirect jobs. Iowa is also host to 14 active wind-related manufacturing facilities in the state, which create and sustain jobs and strengthen the economy.

Investments in solar projects are on the rise and also provide great economic growth opportunities. By way of example, the recently constructed Farmers Electric Cooperative solar farm in Johnson County will generate more than 1 million kilowatt hours each year, eliminate more than two million pounds of carbon pollution annually and reduce costs for ratepayers.

We urge the Iowa Ag Summit speakers, local and national, to acknowledge the critical role of renewable energy and to support enabling public policies that will allow it to contribute to a strong and vibrant rural economy. Renewable energy development should be a priority of policymakers on both sides of the aisle. We have demonstrated we can harness energy from the sun. We know how to capture the wind. We grow fuels from seed. We can manufacture the components to undertake all these industries here on our own soil. This ability to provide homegrown energy reduces our dependency on foreign fuels, improves the economy and enhances our national security.

Iowa's success story serves as an example for what the rest of the nation can achieve.

Sincerely,

25x'25 Alliance
Advanced Biofuels USA
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Council on Renewable Energy
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Solar Energy Society
American Soybean Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Biomass Power Association
BioTown Ag
CropLife America
Distributed Wind Energy Association

Environment & Energy Study Institute
Energy Future Coalition
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Farmers Electric Coop
Iowa Biodiesel Board
Iowa Soybean Association
Midwest Wind Energy Center (MWECC)
Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association
National Biodiesel Board
National Corn Growers Association
National Farmers Union
Windustry

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