Submitted: Jesse Martus - February 5, 2026

Ethanol and Nutrients

Hello IJC, It is still up for debate whether ethanol creates more energy than it uses. The Renewable Fuels Standard was passed in 2005 and there's still mixed evidence about whether or not ethanol is a net postive for energy production. It seems to me leaders are dragging their feet to find the answer. Perhaps they won't find the answer that suits their objectives. Net energy aside, one negative factor not included in the calculation is the water quality fallout from the high demand it places on our landscape to produce corn and beans. The scale of the BMPs funded to reduce nutrient loads through state and federal grants is minor in terms of the benefit Lake Erie would receive from revoking the ethanol man- date. Ethanol must be a direct driver of nitrogen and phosphorus loading to the Great Lakes. The entire economic super- structure of Great Lakes farming is propped up by the ethanol mandate. The mandate has increased land prices and forced feed prices up, which results in higher food prices. Another point is that, personally speaking, I get twenty percent worse mileage on E15 in my vehicle. Going after the ethanol mandate may seem politically formidable at first glace, but it's unthinkable to do otherwise. Every leader I speak to about this does not take what I'm saying seriously. I suspect they feel it is a battle they cannot win. Now ethanol advocates are pushing a year-round mandate. There's no telling where this will go. Please take a stand against ethanol subsidies. Fund research to model the stressors it places on our waters and the reductions in loads if it were eliminated. Best Regards, Jesse Martus