

**TESTIMONY OF CHIP BOWLING**  
**PRESIDENT, NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**  
**EPA HEARING ON THE RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD**  
**JUNE 25, 2015, KANSAS CITY**  
**As Prepared**

My name is Chip Bowling. I am a third-generation farmer, operating a 1,400-acre grain farm growing corn, soybean, wheat, barley and grain sorghum only an hour's drive south of our nation's capital, in Newburg, Maryland. As someone who farms along the Chesapeake Bay, I know the importance of farming with high environmental standards, and I'm proud of our work back home.

I'm also proud to serve as president of the National Corn Growers Association, a national trade association that represents 42,000 dues-paying corn growers and the interests of more than 300,000 farmers who contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states.

NCGA's mission is simple: Create and increase opportunities for corn growers.

Of paramount importance to us, right now, is building demand for corn at a time when we are seeing record corn production.

The drought of 2012, when corn production dropped by 4 billion bushels and corn prices shot up, is a thing of the past. Back-to-back record crops in 2013 and 2014 have helped us refill our bins, but they came at a cost, with the price of corn well below the cost of production.

Put simply, our farmers are great at growing corn.

We're seeing yields in our National Corn Yield Contest that outpace the national average significantly, even at more than 500 bushels per acre – even while being more environmentally sound.

That's nearly triple the USDA-reported national average.

So, we need to be even smarter when it comes to building demand. While this is a much harder job, we're up to the task, focusing on corn for ethanol, exports and livestock feed, food and new uses.

An important part of this work, however, is protecting our existing markets, and that's why we're here today.

We simply cannot afford – and will not tolerate – efforts to cut the demand for corn, and that's exactly what your proposal will do.

We cannot let this stand.

We've done our part, and our allies in the ethanol industry have done their part.

It's time the EPA sided with those of us supporting a domestic, renewable fuel that's better for the environment.

It's what your mission seeks to do.

As I close, I'd like to remind you that our growers and allies sent a clear signal when the proposal for the 2014 changes were first issued in 2013.

Nearly 200,000 people responded to the EPA in the public comment opportunity, and nearly 10,000 farmers called the White House directly.

We have never before seen so much grassroots interest in a particular issue.

This concern and this activism continues today, as you can clearly see.

We will raise our voices as loud as necessary in defense of ethanol and the RFS.

The many who came here today had to set aside important work back home, with delayed planting or other important field work.

They are here because they know what's at stake.

They have seen the price they get for their grain go down, as the cost of production has increased.

I stand with them, and with the thousands who could not be here today, to tell you one simple thing. Follow the law. Restore the proposed renewable volume obligations to the statutory amount, so we can continue to grow a great renewable resource here at home.

Thank you very much.

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