

Renewable Fuels Summit Takes Look Into the Future Ethanol ready to meet growing demand

Washington, D.C. - With President George W. Bush on hand for the Renewable Fuels Summit 2006: Growing America's Energy Security held today in Washington, DC, the Summit provided an opportunity for government officials and auto, oil and renewable fuels industry leaders to discuss how we achieve the goals laid forth by the President.

From the Summit, Renewable Fuels Association President Bob Dinneen issued the following statement:

"In his State of the Union and again here today, President Bush has laid forth an aggressive agenda that lessens America's addiction to foreign oil by increasing the use of domestically produced renewable fuels like ethanol. The U.S. ethanol industry has heard the clarion call put forth by the President and is expanding to meet this goal."

"Today, America has the capacity to produce nearly 4.5 billions gallons of clean-burning ethanol annually at 97 ethanol biorefineries in 19 states. In addition, the industry is expanding at an unprecedented rate. Currently, 35 new biorefineries are under construction and 9 are expanding that will add more than 2.2 billion gallons of production capacity by the end of 2007. Some 150 projects are estimated to be in various stages of planning, as well."

"Ethanol is no longer a niche Midwestern fuel, but can be found coast to coast and border to border. Today, ethanol is blended in 40 percent of the nation's gasoline supply, including virtually every gallon of gasoline in New York and California. Ethanol is a growing and vital component of our gasoline as it helps meet clean air requirements, boosts octane ratings, and extends supplies thus moderating prices at the pump."

"To fully realize the goals President Bush has put forth, it will take the combined efforts of the renewable fuels industry, the automobile industry and the oil industry. It will take increased ethanol production, and not only from grains, but from cellulosic material, like switchgrass as well. In addition, automakers must continue to produce more vehicles that can run on higher ethanol blends, up to 85 percent. And the continued cooperation between our industry and the oil industry will be necessary if we are to realize the President's vision."

"Working together, the renewable fuels industry, the auto companies, and the oil industry can make the President's vision of a more sustainable energy future a reality for all Americans."

The Renewable Fuels Association has served as the voice of the U.S. ethanol industry for the past 25 years. The RFA consists of more than 200 member companies and represents more than 90 percent of the annual U.S. ethanol production.