

Remarks
House Committee on Ways and Means: Member Day Hearing
Time: Approximately 5 Minutes

Opening

- Thank you, Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal, for holding this important Member Day Hearing today.
- It is an honor to be here on behalf of the families, farmers, and small businesses across the 21 counties I represent in southern Minnesota.
- As a proud fourth-generation corn and soybean farmer, raising that fifth-generation, I know firsthand the importance of tax policies that allow farmers to fuel and feed the world while ensuring they have the opportunity to pass their operations down to the next generation.

Minnesota Biofuels

- Minnesota is currently the fifth largest ethanol producer in the United States with a capacity of over 1.3 billion gallons annually from 18 ethanol plants.
- Moreover, Minnesota was the first state to require the use of biodiesel and is home to three biodiesel plants with a combined production capacity of 85.5 million gallons per year.

45Z Tax Credit

- There have been a lot of conversations around tax credits ahead of reconciliation. One tax credit I want to focus on today is 45Z, or the Clean Fuel Production Tax Credit.

- “America First” needs American biofuels.
- American farmers and rural communities will be essential to unleashing America’s energy dominance.
- Homegrown American ethanol and biodiesel hold down gas prices, strengthen our domestic energy production, bring jobs and prosperity to rural America, and deliver cleaner air.
- 45Z is essential to achieve those goals. I ask you to preserve 45Z, but I also believe it should be extended in order to give an adequate foundation for lasting, long-term investment.

Treasury Guidance

- Now, just last week we saw a rule come out of Treasury that lays out the guidelines of 45Z. This long-overdue guidance is far from complete and it still lacks the critical details that are needed to help ensure that American biofuel producers and their farm partners can lead the world in clean fuel production.
- That is where we, here in Congress, and specifically this great committee, can step in and work with President Trump to provide farmers with a new pathway to drive the farm economy. One that is all-encompassing and correctly accounts for the many ways biofuel producers and farmers innovate on the farm and at the plant according to real science, and not political science.
- A strong rural economy depends on a strong American biofuels industry, and vice versa. This credit can offer a

path forward for all of our agricultural stakeholders, and I look forward to working with you here on this Committee and the Trump administration to ensure biofuel producers play a central role in the successful efforts to revitalize rural America.

Closing

- As we act to implement our important work in the 119th Congress, I look forward to working with the Committee on Ways and Means to write and pass strong, conservative tax policies that will benefit families, farmers, and small businesses across southern Minnesota and all of America.
- Thank you again for holding this important hearing today and I would welcome any questions you may have.