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## **American Petroleum Institute rebuts Gen. Clark on COOL**

(Editor's note: *Agri-Pulse* received the following letter from the American Petroleum Institute about last week's Open Mic interview with General Wesley Clark, co-chair of Growth Energy. We have asked Growth Energy to provide any additional clarification and will post that information when it becomes available.)

Dear Ms. Wyant:

We were surprised to hear Wesley Clark claim on your "Open Mic" program that Growth Energy's proposal for "country of origin labeling" for gasoline was "incredibly popular" among "petroleum producers and refiners." It is simply not true. Anyone who knows anything about fuel markets knows that it is very difficult to determine with absolute certainty the origin of the gasoline consumers put into their tanks since refiners purchase crude oil from a variety of countries, and the fuels produced reflect this diversity of crude sources. In addition, retail suppliers often buy their gasoline from several companies and supply swaps are common. Moreover, the U.S. gasoline distribution system is based on fungible specifications so that it is impossible keep track of gasoline that is transported by pipelines.

The world energy markets are inherently global, and no single country can exempt itself from the interdependencies of that market. Crude oil is a fungible commodity so a unilateral boycott by Americans, for example, would not alter the global supply-demand balance and would only penalize station owners, most of whom are small business owners. Oil that is not purchased by U.S. customers would be bought by others.

We welcome Growth Energy's support in increasing domestic supplies of crude oil and natural gas. America's oil and natural gas industry would love the opportunity to explore and produce oil and gas from those areas of our nation that have been off-limits for decades.

Karen

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API is the only national trade association that represents all aspects of America's oil and natural gas industry. Our more than 400 corporate members, from the largest major oil company to the smallest of independents, come from all segments of the industry. They are producers, refiners, suppliers, pipeline operators and marine transporters, as well as service and supply companies that support all segments of the industry.