

## Growth Energy Chair Gen. Clark lists ethanol's benefits at Copenhagen climate talks

By Agri-Pulse Staff

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Copenhagen, Dec. 16 – Speaking at the international climate change talks Wednesday, Growth Energy Co-Chairman (Ret.) Gen. Wesley Clark warned that continuing dependence on petroleum for automotive fuel not only causes a serious increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and other pollutants, but creates a major security risk for both developed and developing nations.

Gen. Clark warned that as long as the world continues to rely on petroleum, “We suffer the inefficiencies of cartel pricing and oil shocks . . . Then there is the military cost to ensure steady access to foreign oil from parts of the world that are volatile or outright hostile to Western values and policies. Taxpayers fund the defense of oil shipping routes with an estimated annual cost of more than \$50 billion.” He added that a January 2008 study by the Center for Forensic Economic Studies estimated the “import premium” at an additional \$24 in cost to consumers for every barrel of imported oil.

Focused on “Global Energy Security in a Climate Affected World,” Clark said that in



contrast to fossil fuels, “Ethanol is a low-carbon fuel [with] as much as 59 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than the production of gasoline. The most advanced technology, with closed loop biorefineries, offers us even cleaner alternatives, as much as 67 percent fewer GHGs compared to gasoline. With cellulosic ethanol, we could produce 86 percent fewer.”

Clark pointed out that domestic production of nearly 6.5 billion gallons of ethanol in the United States in 2007 reduced U.S. imports by over 228 million barrels of oil for gasoline.”

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