



Welcoming Obama's clean energy pledge, RFA's Dinneen lists how ethanol is helping

By Agri-Pulse Staff

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Washington, Jan. 28 – Reacting quickly to President Obama's State of the Union address in which he reiterated his support for clean energy and green jobs, Renewable Fuels Association President Bob Dinneen said that "America's ethanol producers stand with the President, ready to provide good paying jobs and economic opportunity in a cleaner and more sustainable manner."

Dinneen pointed out that "In just the past 10 years, ethanol production has helped create hundreds of thousands of new jobs for engineers, construction workers, chemists, accountants, maintenance supervisors, and countless others. With new technologies on the precipice of commercialization, this industry is once again poised to bring unparalleled economic opportunity to small, rural communities all across the nation."

Dinneen noted that as the economy began to recover late in 2009, so too did the ethanol industry. As an example, he said that in Janesville, Minnesota, a formerly shuttered VeraSun Energy plant reopened as Guardian Energy, with a new 120-million gallon a year ethanol plant that's the town's largest employer and one of the biggest property taxpayers in the county.

In another example, Dinneen said a soon to be opened ethanol facility in North Carolina, received nearly 900 applications for some 40 available jobs – jobs in an industry which pays well, with more than 75% of employees making at least \$50,000 a year and 99% getting health care benefits from their employers.

Dinneen says that to ensure that the full potential of biofuels and ethanol in particular are realized, Congress and the Obama administration should:

- "Finalize the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) in a manner that uses the best available science and provides for the kind of market security next generation biofuel technologies need to thrive.
- "Extend the tax incentives for the use of ethanol from all feedstocks and extend the offsetting secondary tariff on ethanol imports.

- “Approve E15 (15% ethanol/85% gasoline) and other higher level blends for use in all gasoline vehicles, regardless of model year.
- “Partner with industry to expand ethanol blending and dispensing infrastructure, including the installation of blender pumps.
- “Mandate an increasing percentage of all new vehicles sold in the U.S. be flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) capable of using ethanol blends up to 85% (E85).”

For coverage of the President’s State of the Union address, go to:
www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/Jan2710H2.pdf.

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