

United States Environmental Protection Agency Public Hearing

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Dale Samp, Samp Family Farms Testimony

Good afternoon,

My name is Dale Samp. My family and I farm around 2300 acres in north central Missouri. We raise corn, soybeans, and wheat as well as do some custom farming. Our closest and best market for corn is the ethanol plant in Macon so all of our corn production goes to that location. I have also served on the board of the POET Macon plant since it opened.

I came here today because I know firsthand the impact biofuels has on our rural communities. Before my son Kyle came back to our farm full-time in 2010 he worked as an intern at the plant in Macon while in college and later became a grain buyer at Macon before moving to Laddonia to become its commodities manager. My oldest son Andrew has worked for POET since he graduate from college and works at the POET plant in Gowrie, IA today. If it weren't for these plants, I am not sure if my boys would have any connection to agriculture or the rural America we love so dearly.

I also know how excited we are that someday we might be able to bring a cellulosic plant to Macon. For me, selling corn stover would be a value add and give me a chance to economically clear residues from my fields that would otherwise sit there and decompose unused. You see, I want to be part of first generation of ethanol leading to the second generation.

Like I said, I sit on the board at Macon, and we are just waiting for the right opportunity that makes sense for our investors to get on board. Right now, it sounds like there is a great deal of uncertainty thanks in part to confusion over the past few years around this rulemaking. But let me be clear, if you provide the certainty, we will move forward. And perhaps years from now as more clean fuels are being used and my sons are still working the fields maybe with their sons and daughters, we will be able to look back and say we did something great together. All I ask, is that you do your part to help that become a reality, and get this rule working again.

Thank you.