

Testimony for Greg Olsen
General Manager
POET Biorefining-Corning
United States Environmental Protection Agency Public Hearing
EPA–HQ–OAR–2016–0004
June 9, 2016

Good [morning/afternoon],

My name is Greg Olsen and I am the General Manager for POET Biorefining in Corning, Iowa. At our plant we have 44 full-time employees who together worked to produce 73 million gallons of ethanol and 207,000 tons of animal feed last year. We pay over \$480,000 in taxes to the county and we are an active member in our local community.

I am here again this year to speak from the perspective of a plant manager who only wants to produce fuel and hopes in the future to have a cellulosic plant to manage. I hope to use my short time here to give you a picture of why I am concerned about the future of my plant and the small town our team so dearly loves.

As I mentioned last year, the company I work for, POET, recently launched the first-of-its-kind cellulosic plant in Emmetsburg, Iowa. It's not too far away from Corning. In conversations I had with executives from our headquarters back in 2013 and earlier, they spoke about how I would need to prepare our plant to bolt on a new cellulosic project in the future. I was not the only POET General Manager to have those discussions..

For Corning, that would mean a whole new plant constructed and a whole bunch of new jobs created. It would mean new revenues for our 1,860 farmer-suppliers and more trucks that need driving to bring the biomass to our facility.

Last year, I mentioned that discussions around bringing a cellulosic plant to Corning had quieted. Unfortunately, corporate continues to indicate they are uncertain if EPA is committed to increasing volumes of ethanol to statutory levels. I continue to hear from my executives terms like "regulatory uncertainty" and "lack of market access" and "unclear path to commercialization." In one conversation, I was told that if they are willing to cut the total renewable volumes by two hundred thousand gallons, they may be willing to pull the rug out from underneath us on a more expensive and risky cellulosic project.

Like last year, the only request I have for you today is to please do whatever you can to ensure that those in charge at POET feel that there is enough certainty to keep rolling out new

cellulosic plants. If what is on those pages of the RVO proposal is not strong enough, please make it stronger. Our town has done everything that has been asked of it under the RFS. We have created a significant amount of American-made fuel that is cheaper and cleaner for American drivers. And, we are ready to do more. Give our company's leadership the confidence it needs to build and grow the biofuels industry.

Thank you for all of your hard work and for the attention given to our concerns.