

# We've Got Your Back

## IL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1,807  
CONTACTS WITH  
LEGISLATORS IN  
2019 ON KEY  
CORN  
ISSUES

### ACCESS TO ETHANOL MARKETS

President Trump announced his intention to remove regulatory barriers to selling E15 in the fall of 2018. Later in May 2019, the EPA finalized its rule and made year-round E15 sales a reality.

This is one important step in the road to higher corn demand. The Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver gives retailers an easier choice to sell E15. As retailers convert infrastructure to allow for higher ethanol blends, this becomes an important step to higher blend availability to consumers.

Again, in October 2019, the EPA answered the President's commitment to ethanol by announcing a public comment period for a rule that will reallocate the waived gallons of ethanol over the past three years. These are both important steps to drive your largest growing market!



### CALL TO ACTION SYSTEM

ICGA made political advocacy easier with a new call-to-action system called Phone2Action. In just one year, ICGA added almost 1,500 farmers and advocates to the system, each of which receives a notification when calls-to-action are needed.

As of September 2019, ICGA has helped members make more than 1,800 contacts with legislators.

Are you signed up for this service yet? If not, we've made it easy! Simply create a new text, type "52886" in the TO: field, and type "ILCorn" in the message field. Super simple!



Text "ilcorn" to 52886 to  
sign up for our advocacy platform.

### RECALCULATED MFP PAYMENTS

Your association facilitated a conversation between farmers and the administration regarding the Market Facilitation Program payments issued in 2019. Remember, corn farmers felt that corn was treated a bit unfairly in the calculation of the payments and sought to make the calculations more equitable.

ICGA offered corn farmers the opportunity to tell the administration that A PENNY WON'T CUT IT on their farms, activating hundreds of corn farmers along the way.

In the end, the administration made significant changes to the MFP calculations in 2019, making the payments based on county level.

Early  
COVID-19  
legislation  
includes  
a budget for  
future  
aid to  
farmers.

### LAGRANGE LOCK REHABILITATION FUNDED

Years of advocacy on behalf of the locks and dams on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers yielded fruit in 2019, when the Army Corps of Engineers plan of work included \$57.5 million for major rehabilitation on the LaGrange Lock and Dam near Beardstown on the Illinois River. The LaGrange Lock and Dam is at the top of the priority list, needing massive repairs to continue its functionality. Experts have watched in prior years as chunks of the lock have simply fallen into the river unaided. This major rehab budget is a significant win.

Additionally, many Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee Members have included a change in the Inland Waterways Trust Fund cost-share as one of their priorities for inclusion in the 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). This change from a 50/50 to 75% general revenue funding/25% IWTF for IWTF projects would maintain a robust construction budget for Corps projects.



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WITH ITS PARTNERS,  
ICGA HELPED IL DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION  
UNDERSTAND THAT A  
PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP  
(P3) PROPOSAL WOULD  
MOVE TONNAGE AWAY  
FROM THE RIVER. NO P3  
PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED!