



ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

# Political Papers

SEPTEMBER 2014

## CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR

Sept 8-19: Session

Sept 22-26: In District

Sept 29-Oct 2: Session

Oct 6-Nov 6: In District

Nov 6: Election Day!

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

Nov 19-21: Veto Session

Dec 2-4: Veto Session

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## FOSTER, BUSTOS MEET WITH EPA OFFICIALS

This summer, Rep. Bill Foster organized and led a meeting at the White House to discuss proposed changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Foster was joined by Democratic Representatives Tammy Duckworth and Bill Enyart. These three members of Congress spoke with key White House staff about corn ethanol and its value to the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Dr. Michael Wang from the Argonne National Laboratory



and Dr. Steffen Mueller of the University of Illinois at Chicago were there to present their latest research on the greenhouse gas emission benefits of corn-based ethanol.

Following their presentations, the scientists requested that the White House ask EPA to reconsider how they model greenhouse gas emissions associated with corn-based ethanol, given that they have found that it reduces carbon dioxide emissions by an average of at least 34% when compared to gasoline.

EPA is expected to issue a revised RFS rule in the near future, although no date has been set for the announcement.

## CONGRESSIONAL STAFF TOUR A SUCCESS!

IL Corn Marketing Board hosted a Congressional Staff Tour on August 12-14 along with Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board and GROWMARK.

Seven staff members of the Illinois Congressional delegation traveled to Illinois to learn more about Illinois agriculture.

A visit to Lock and Dam 15, Patriot Renewable Energy ethanol plant, Reason's Prairie Pride, Goldstar FS Plant Food Storage Facility, and several family farms helped round out their education on the need for updated river infrastructure, the potential for ethanol to accomplish energy security and environmental



preservation goals, and fertilizer safety and security programs.

While this is an important time

Seven staff of Illinois Congressional offices visited Illinois in August to learn more about the big issues facing agriculture in 2014, among them, the need for updated locks and dams.

# GRASSROOTS ACTION NEEDED!

Illinois Corn Growers Association often looks to farmer members to help support our efforts and the preservation of your farm, family, and future.

Please consider becoming one of the farmers we can count on to call Congress and send emails when needed. Sign up for text

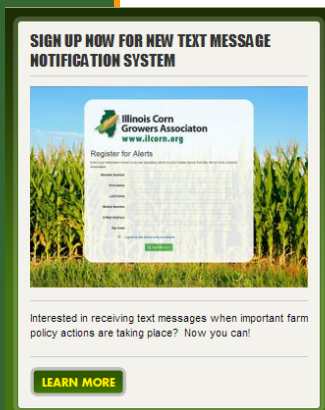
alerts so we can let you know when we need action.

You can sign up for text alerts on our website. Look for the image to the left on the homepage and click through the prompts to sign up using our easy system.

You can rest assured that we will treat your personal information with consideration and confidentiality. We will not share your cell phone number with other companies or associations and we will only send

text alerts when your action is vital to the future of the ag industry.

Signing up for text alerts will require your ICGA member number. If you need your Member Number, please do not hesitate to contact Rosie at (309) 557-3257 or [rsanderson@ilcorn.org](mailto:rsanderson@ilcorn.org).



*If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically to save printing costs, please email your request to [lmitchell@ilcorn.org](mailto:lmitchell@ilcorn.org).*

## RECENT PAC DONATIONS ASSIST CANDIDATES

In 2014, your PAC has contributed to the following elected officials:

- Mark Kirk
- Cheri Bustos (*right*)
- Rodney Davis
- Tammy Duckworth
- Bill Enyart
- Bill Foster
- Luis Gutierrez
- Robin Kelly
- Dan Lipinski
- Peter Roskam
- Janice Schakowsky
- John Shimkus (*right*)

We look forward to scheduling PAC events for Congressmen Aaron Schock and Adam Kinzinger as soon as schedules permit.

Thank you to the farmers who contributed matching funds to make these contributions possible!



# CONG STAFF TOUR (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

for staffers to learn more about their Illinois farmer constituents, it is also an important time for the staff themselves to bond. Conversations and cooperation between offices are always more frequent and easier following a fun and engaging experience like the Illinois Congressional Staff Tour.

To that end, the staff got to do some fun activities as well. Among them, a drone flying contest that

both helped staff understand the potential of unmanned aerial vehicles for farm applications and implications for policy and brought a fair measure of fun to the event.

Congressmen Duckworth, Enyart, Kelley, Kinzinger, Lipinski, and Rush as well as Senator Kirk were represented at the 2014 Congressional Staff Tour.



## E15 COULD MAKE GAINS IN CHICAGO

On July 28, the Chicago City Council Committee on Finance heard a proposal that would offer Chicagoans enhanced choice at the pump...access to E15. Action to finalize the ordinance could come as early as September.

Can you imagine that Chicago would be the first major market for E15? And that the people backing the initial proposal aren't farm, corn, or ethanol organizations? That's the case now as long-time City Alderman Burke, sometimes called the unofficial Mayor of Chicago, teamed up with Alderman Beale to introduce the ordinance. Environmental health and consumer choice were on their minds, and E15 delivers on both issues.

Due to the Council's summer schedule and Aldermen's summer vacations, the vote hasn't hap-

pened yet. The next step will be for the Committee on Finance to call a vote on the ordinance. If it passes out of committee, it will then be presented to the full City Council.

The ordinance would require all gas stations in the City to offer E15 at their station at a minimum of one pump. Federal rules require that E10 remain available for sale wherever E15 is sold.

Right now we have about 10 locations in Illinois that offer E15 as a standalone fueling option. Remember, E15 has been approved for use

in all passenger vehicles 2001 and newer, and all flex fuel vehicles.

The Illinois Corn Growers Association and Illinois Renewable Fuels Association support Alderman Burke and Alderman Beale's ordinance.

### LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE E15 THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS

The Illinois Corn Growers Association is still working a bill in the Illinois General Assembly that would transfer the E10 sales tax incentive to E15 ... and return money to the Illinois treasury in the process.

Although there is no significant action on that bill, the movement in Chicago makes it more likely that Chicago area legislators could get on board!







**Illinois Corn Growers  
Association**

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## IL CORN PAC EVENT, NOV 24



Join Illinois Corn for their annual PAC casino night on November 24, 2014 at the Asmark Building, Carole Dr, Bloomington, IL. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm, casino games follow, and a raffle and silent auction winners are announced at the end of the night. A \$50 donation per person covers your meal and casino chips; higher priced ticket options are available. Please contact Becky Finfrock at [bfinfrock@ilcorn.org](mailto:bfinfrock@ilcorn.org) for more information.

## DONATE

Donating to the ICGA PAC is easy!  
Simply complete your personal check  
and fill out the form below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

PAC contributions are not tax deductible and cannot be treated as a business expense. For ICGA's PAC Policies and Guidelines, contact the ICGA office at 309-557-3257.