



Western Iowa Energy, LLC

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RFS2 EPA hearing in Washington D.C. – August 1, 2017 Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

Hello, I am Brad Wilson, the President and General Manager of the biodiesel production company, Western Iowa Energy, LLC (WIE) in Wall Lake, Iowa. I have been in or associated with the biodiesel industry for seventeen years. The RFS2 has definitely helped biodiesel in many regards and I appreciate the policy greatly! But for it to accomplish what it was intended to, it needs to be grown to keep up with the capacity of the domestic plants that are currently producing and those that are scaled back.

Our plant was an idea of several community leaders in NW Iowa back in 2004. In 2005 over 700 investors, (mainly local farmers) pooled their money together to begin construction on a 30 million gallon per year biodiesel facility. Construction was finished and production began in June of 2006. WIE employs 31 fulltime individuals, with many of them living right in Wall Lake, a town of approx. 800 residents. The plant is very important to the community, especially the workers, contractors, vendors, transportation entities, etc. that patronize the many businesses of Wall Lake. Wall Lake has many things going in the right direction and it may not be this way without the strong support and expected growth of the RFS2.

A couple of years ago Western Iowa Energy decided to undergo several expansion projects by the way of capital investments once the RFS2 was showing some growth and the industry needed additional capacity. The WIE Board and Executives committed to carry out an upgrade/de-bottle necking of the biodiesel facility and invested several million dollars in additional storage tanks after good years of growth in the RFS2. Now just when the extra capacity (from 30MGPY to 45MGPY) could really start to crank up and become routine, the announcement came out of the Agency to hold the future RVO at the previous year's limit. The projected RVO limits for 2018 & 2019 are at a pace that doesn't completely let us run at our increased capacity levels. 2019 biomass-based diesel volume of at least 2.75 billion gallons, and a 2018 advanced biofuel volume of 5.25 billion gallons would definitely help us increase our production to the current capability of the plant and allow us to plan and budget for employee additions and possible future projects. Since our upgrade to 45MGPY, WIE has only been able to produce 33MGPY and is **ready to set production records by producing more** and we stand **ready to hire more**, & with good RFS2 growth we are **ready to expand more**.

At WIE we procure many feedstocks to produce our biodiesel from, the founders of the company decided that it was very important to add a pretreat facility to refine crude feedstocks such as vegetable oils, used cooking oil, inedible corn oil, various animal fats/oils and recycled oils, all can be cost effective at times and we try to use the feedstocks that are readily available and ones that will also allow us to be profitable. Please consider increasing the 2019 biomass-based diesel volume to a minimum of 2.75 billion gallons, there are several plants in Iowa and all over the US that can take on considerable increases to production capacity, immediately. Please help us by continuing to grow the RVO which will in turn increase good paying jobs for local people that want to see this industry grow to its potential.

Thank you for your time and consideration.