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Michigan Corn Emphasizes Importance of Ethanol to Lawmakers at Legislative Conference

LANSING, MI. – Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) members attended the Growth Energy Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Sept. 18 to 21 to discuss regulatory and policy issues affecting the nation's ethanol industry. Representing Michigan corn growers at the second annual conference was Jeff Sandborn, MCGA President; Russell Braun, a MCGA board member, and Val Vail-Shirey, MCGA's Policy Coordinator. Sandborn is a corn grower from Portland and Braun is a corn grower from Ovid.

Attendees had the opportunity to speak with federal lawmakers and colleagues about critical legislative and regulatory issues affecting the ethanol industry, including the implementation of E15 as well as efforts to maintain the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). Conference-goers also attended an Administrative briefing with guest speakers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy and the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change.

Sandborn, Braun and Vail-Shirey met with members of the Michigan Congressional delegation, including U.S. House members S. Levin, Upton, Camp, Kildee and Amash, as well as U.S. Senator Stabenow to explain the importance of Michigan corn growers and the positive impact of renewable fuels.

"Fall is a very busy time for farmers in our state, but our growers know their true strength lies in their grassroots activism, so it was very important for Michigan corn growers to be represented on Capitol Hill," said Vail-Shirey. "We are grateful that Jeff and Russell took time out of their busy schedules to attend this conference, and we thank them for their dedication to the MCGA and other Michigan corn farmers."

Headquartered in Lansing, the MCGA is a grassroots-membership association that has represented the state's corn growers' political interests since the 1970s. The MCGA works cooperatively with the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) a legislatively-established program that utilizes one-cent per bushel of Michigan corn sold and invests in research, education, new uses and market development. Michigan's corn industry adds more than one billion dollars to the state's economy annually and in 2010, Michigan's corn farmers harvested a record setting crop of more than 315 million bushels. For more information, visit the website of the MCGA and the CMPM at www.micorn.org.

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