

Testimony on the agricultural commodity processing facility investment tax credit

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Good afternoon, my name is Al Christianson, business development & governmental affairs director for Great River Energy and Board Director for Midwest AgEnergy Group.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the value of the ag processing commodity processing facility investment tax credit.

The investment tax credit was an important tool that encouraged corporate partners and local ag producers to invest in the \$155 million Dakota Spirit AgEnergy ethanol biorefinery near Jamestown. Putting the financial package together to build an ethanol biorefinery in today's commodity market is very difficult; this program was integral in the successful deployment of the 65-million-gallon ethanol biorefinery that created 38 new FTE jobs and hundreds of jobs during construction.

In addition to new jobs, Dakota Spirit AgEnergy has a significant benefit on the local economy through the purchase of 23 million bushels of corn annually from farmers, availability of feed and oil byproducts. The ethanol produced at Dakota Spirit AgEnergy amounts to about 20 percent of North Dakota's annual fuel demand.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide comment, and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.