

Remarks as prepared for delivery by Growth Energy CEO Emily Skor to the 2024 Growth Energy Biofuels Summit on September 10, 2024 in Washington, D.C.

Good morning, biofuels advocates!

Isn't it fantastic to be back together for another Growth Energy Biofuels Summit?

I love it when the leaders driving change and progress in the bioeconomy roll into town.

When you take these meetings, when you share your stories, you aren't just representatives of a crucial sector.

You are ambassadors for the future that our nation deserves.

So first and foremost, *thank you* for taking the time and effort to be here.

You don't need me to tell you we're experiencing an **unpredictable, historic**, some might say **chaotic** campaign season.

Come January, we may have a second Trump administration and a GOP Congress that is more focused on **deregulation** than **climate policy** —

but where our impact on **rural prosperity** and **energy dominance** would be paramount.

Or we may have a **Harris Administration** that leans in further on carbon reductions— where our contributions are **immediate, practical**, and **cost-effective**.

And don't overlook the fact that *both* presidential nominees felt compelled to **look to the Midwest** for their running mate.

We don't just have two parties that are focused on the Heartland; we have two parties that **put the Heartland on the ticket**.

For many, the fall of a presidential election year feels anxious and foreboding.

And for our industry, there are several incredibly **important balls in the air** that will **land in the next Administration**.

The stakes are high.

There's a lot in play.

We're about to talk in detail about all of it today.

But *first*, let me tell you why I am **optimistic** and **excited** about our post-election path forward.

It's because we are the **road map** to a **stronger America**.

Our ideas work **no matter who's in power**.

Our priorities connect with diverse audiences — because they **deliver on shared values**.

For example: **Driving investment in America's rural communities**.

The last decade has seen both parties acknowledge Washington was **too complacent for too long** while too much of rural America fell behind.

From **agriculture** to **manufacturing** to **health outcomes** we've seen trends our country can't accept.

Both the Trump and Biden Administrations prioritized a rural turnaround. The goal is bipartisan.

And we're here to say: **So are the solutions**.

If growers and producers can count on RFS requirements that are **timely, ambitious, and reliable**, that economic stability **ripples out** into entire communities.

Or take SREs.

When refiners ask to **shirk their responsibility**, they are asking to **redistribute money** from rural communities into their own pockets.

We need to **fight for heartland jobs** by **fighting for RFS integrity** and making sure any exempt SRE gallons are reallocated.

These battles aren't just being fought at EPA or on Capitol Hill. Growth is also **mobilizing in the courtroom**, where the **RFS is under siege**.

The nation's top lifecycle scientists recently submitted an amicus brief **challenging the faulty assumptions** behind attacks on the RFS.

Growth Energy helped put that brief in motion.

And we aren't just fighting to defend rural America today.

We're unlocking an even brighter future.

Why do we want to speed up permitting and knock down barriers to carbon capture projects? To **create new jobs, raise farm revenues, and inject billions** into rural economies.

To get there, we need to **harden the backbones** of our state and federal champions against activists who **falsely claim** to represent landowners.

RFS, SREs, carbon capture: These aren't wish list items to help an industry. It's a platform to secure and strengthen the rural economy.

Another shared value... is **giving American consumers greater choice and lower prices.**

Inflation and the **cost of living** are dominating kitchen-table conversations around the country — and biomanufacturers deliver relief straight to Americans' pocketbooks.

Drivers across America deserve the freedom to **maximize their savings at the pump.**

That means E15 access should be **permanent, year-round, and nationwide.** Period.

We cannot settle for **piecemeal policymaking** that trickles out state by state, emergency waiver by emergency waiver.

We need our **federal lawmakers to make federal law.**

And this week, we'll be calling on them to **do just that.**

We also need to maintain the flow of USDA grants that help our retail partners provide those options in the first place.

Consumers can't afford an **unworkable false choice** between 'only fossil fuels' and 'only EVs.'

And newsflash: **Neither one is happening.**

This is a fight where **biofuels** and **fossil fuels** are increasingly finding some **common cause.**

This year, twice I've spoken to oil and gas audiences at energy conferences in Houston, the "**energy capital of the world.**"

About how bioethanol extends the future of liquid fuels.

That wasn't happening eight years ago — or even two years ago.

And what about **accelerating innovation in America's bioeconomy.**

This is the reason why we rebranded Growth Energy last year with a new logo and tagline.

We aren't just holding the line on the same righteous policy fights we've known for decades.

We're the **tip of the spear** of a **whole new chapter** for our country.

A **plant-powered economy**, that grows **in sync with nature**, instead of at her expense.

To us, this story is second nature.

But to many reporters, community leaders, and policymakers, it's still new.

Most people are not familiar with the notion of a **circular economy** or a **bioeconomy**.

We need to **make these ideas sticky**

and **create new conventional wisdom**.

Our vision for the future is big and bold.

From the farm to the plant. And it's already arriving:

- Innovative farming methods.
- New coproducts and fuel types.
- Greater value with fewer emissions.

That's why Growth Energy has led the charge to **shape federal guidance** for new tax credits, especially the clean fuel production credit slated to take effect January 1st.

We've activated rural champions *from both parties*.

They're pressing Treasury to ensure that 45Z lets rural America prosper at the **speed of innovation**, not the **snail's pace of bureaucracy**.

..that it accurately rewards the **full suite** of carbon-smart practices that reduce emissions, on the farm and at the plant.

...and that it gives producers and farmers **maximum flexibility** to adapt and innovate as *they* see fit.

We are just **scratching the surface** of the new bioeconomy.

We aren't competing over scarcity.

We're unleashing abundance.

We can't let 21st-century innovation be held back by **messy bureaucracy** or **special interests** pushing inaccurate science.

Another key value: **Securing American dominance in hard-to-electrify sectors.**

Imagine you're speaking to a new audience — and some of you will be this week — that isn't familiar with bioethanol.

Ask them about the energy of the future, and they may jump to **wind, solar, and electric vehicles.**

But of course, there are major, crucial applications where those options don't cut it.

Air travel. Marine and freight transportation.

These markets need different solutions.

But they're still innovating. The race is on. And America can't afford to put ourselves at a competitive disadvantage.

SAF is **key to decarbonization of the skies.**

Both Republicans and Democrats understand this.

The United States can **choose to lead** or **choose to follow.**

And Growth is leaving no stone unturned to **make friends, recruit allies,** and demonstrate the **full scope** of our value proposition.

Later this month, Growth Energy will be in New York City for Climate Week.

It may not be a crowd where people expect to see biofuels represented. But that's exactly why we're showing up.

Our members are innovating and decarbonizing up and down the entire supply chain.

I was honored to be with Tom in Kansas two weeks ago for the groundbreaking of a cutting-edge pilot project led by Growth Energy members — **Conestoga Energy** and **SAFFiRE Renewables.**

They've partnered with **Southwest Airlines** to transform corn stover into jet fuel.

Again, the United States can choose to lead or choose to follow.

And for goodness sakes, let's make sure that our **market incentives** and **tax benefits** aren't being captured by **foreign producers.**

We certainly shouldn't pay a premium for taking market opportunity *away* from American producers.

Both Republicans and Democrats want **American workers, farmers, and factories** to get a **fair shake** and a **level playing field**.

We embody that. We exemplify that.

Our foreign competitors aren't agnostic about who leads the pack. So we can't afford to be either.

As both parties converge around "Made in America," our priorities will help chart the course.

That brings me to the final value that I want to highlight: **Unlocking foreign markets for American bioproducts**.

It won't be enough to bolster our bioeconomy here at home if we lack access to global markets.

America is home to the most innovative biomanufacturers in the world.

We need to be proactively **knocking down barriers** and **opening new opportunities** for them to compete and win.

That's why we press our leaders to fight unfair tariffs and barriers abroad, from China to Brazil.

... and use American leverage to push for higher bioethanol blends around the world.

It's why we have to **lean forward** and **challenge foreign fuel standards** that ban crop-based biofuels.

For example, in June, Brazil doubled down on its 18 percent tariff on U.S. bioethanol.

The U.S. can't take this lying down.

So we're rallying lawmakers to demand the administration defend American farmers and American leadership in producing and exporting biofuels.

In August, I was appointed by **Secretary Vilsack** and U.S. Trade **Representative Tai** as a new member of the **Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee** that directly advises both USDA and USTR.

We are thrilled that Growth has secured a seat at this table. And we have it at least through the next administration.

Our values... are *shared* values.

We know our Republican friends and our Democratic friends need to hear **different arguments**.

Different emphasis.

But the appeal of our core principles is universal.

Because our policy priorities lift *everyone* up.

The future that our industry is building will benefit every single American — no matter **where they live** or **how they vote**.

Growth Energy will stay focused on articulating our message, **however the political environment shifts**.

Because what's good for biofuels, producers, and the entire bioeconomy is **good for working families** on a budget...

Good for **energy security** and **independence**...

Good for **environmental stewardship** and **decarbonization**...

And good for **economic development** in communities that need it most.

No matter how divided America may seem in September of a presidential election year, our mission and our solutions can bring us together!

The bioeconomy is already winning for America.

The bioeconomy is going to *keep* winning for America.

Our job is to **win for the bioeconomy**.

Thank you!

Enjoy the conference.

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