

Farmers seek review of ethanol decision

([PRWEB](#)) November 6, 1999 -- Two Iowa farmers are seeking a second opinion as to whether Iowa's secretary of agriculture has the authority to enact a fuel quality standard in Iowa, a move that would boost ethanol usage, reducing Iowa's dependence on imported energy and enhancing the state's economy.

Ron Litterer of Greene and Ed Wiederstein of Audubon today (Oct. 25) filed a petition for a judicial review of ag secretary Patty Judges' decision not to pursue rulemaking on the standard.

Litterer, who serves as Iowa Corn Growers Association president, and Wiederstein, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau, contend that Judge does have legal authority to take administrative action to enact a fuel quality standard, contrary to Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller's legal opinion.

The petition, filed in the Iowa District Court for Polk County, challenges that Miller's ruling is "based upon an erroneous interpretation of provisions of law." After discussion with legal scholars, both farmers believe that Judge does have legal authority to request the rule.

Litterer and Wiederstein also said they are pursuing the matter through the courts so as to generate additional discussion about ethanol's economic and energy security benefits.

"Ethanol has been proven a safe and effective ingredient in gasoline," Litterer said. "If we are to realize its full potential, this renewable resource should be available in all gasoline."

The district court's decision could take 6-12 months. In the meantime, both farmers said they are open to state legislative initiatives to make the ethanol standard in Iowa a reality.



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