



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Fuel From Corn

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JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Renewable Fuel Standard Act approved during the last legislative session and signed into law by Governor Blunt will require most gasoline sold in Missouri after January 1, 2008 to contain at least 10% ethanol (E 10). This effort to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of oil will also be a boon to Missouri corn farmers.

During the signing ceremony last summer, Governor Blunt said the standard “means Missouri corn fields will be the oil fields of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, contributing \$348 million annually in value added income to Missouri’s economy and generating \$726 million annually in economic activity.”

Ethanol is a cleaner burning alternative to petroleum based gasoline and is more efficient to produce. It contains more oxygen, which results in better combustion and fewer carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and carcinogenic emissions. Studies have shown that 10 percent ethanol blends reduce particulate matter by 50 percent, reduce carbon monoxide emissions by up to 30 percent, and reduce emissions of toxic compounds by 13 percent. In addition, according to a 2002 study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, ethanol yields 34 percent more energy than it takes to produce, including growing the corn, harvesting it, transporting it, and distilling it into ethanol.

Missouri currently has four operating ethanol plants, in Laddonia, Macon, Malta Bend, and Craig that produce about 140 million gallons of ethanol annually. Ethanol plants also are being planned for Carrollton, with an expected production of 50 million gallons per year, St. Joseph, with an estimated production of 60 million gallons per year, and Liberal, with an expected production of 50 million gallons per year.

Anticipated growth in Missouri's ethanol industry will produce more than enough fuel to meet the new E-10 standard.

All motor vehicles manufactured since 1970 can run on E 10, which is available at many of your local gas pumps.

The first four ethanol plants in Missouri will consume approximately 55 million bushels of corn annually and raise the value of Missouri's corn by \$41 million at the farm level annually. Estimates indicate that farmers can expect a five to fifteen cent per bushel price increase for corn as the demand for ethanol increases.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us)

*Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.*