

For Immediate Release

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CFDC Supports Mid-Atlantic Bio Conference

Washington, DC, November 12, 2009: In a presentation to the 2009 Mid-Atlantic Bio Conference held in Washington, D.C., CFDC Executive Director Douglas Durante told attendees that the value of biofuels and bio products is the sum of its parts and that policy needs to reflect the balance of all the objectives of energy and climate. The Mid Atlantic Bio Conference is an annual gathering of more than 1,000 professionals in the energy, bioscience, and technology industries as well as government and academia.

Durante said, "The current Renewable Fuel Standard, lower tax rates for biofuels, and aggressive research and development programs have produced significant benefits, including the displacement of imported oil, job creation, and reduction of a wide range of pollutants. He cautioned, however, that what could be classified as the current "bio or green mania" has resulted in disproportionate requirements on biofuels to the point where these programs are under serious attack.

"Balancing the needs of agriculture, energy, climate change, job creation, and other factors is a challenge," said Durante. "Biofuels and bio technology can be a key part of this effort if we do not let the perfect become the enemy of the good."

He referenced the current indirect land use issue that has resulted in a serious miscalculation of ethanol's total lifecycle impact on greenhouse gas reduction. He further noted the inconsistencies of Congress' requiring advanced biofuels to achieve a 50 percent reduction in Greenhouse gases while legislation recently passed in the U.S. House of representatives requires stationary sources to achieve just 17 percent and was hailed as a great accomplishment by Congress.

Durante said this all traces back to the negative campaign being waged by certain petroleum interests and the Grocery Manufacturers Association, among others. While praising the RFS as an extremely effective tool to drive the market, Durante suggested the environmental driven carbon reduction path we are on needs to slow down to allow technology to catch up. He also said Congress needs to create more flexible programs allowing for peaks and valleys, such as the financing and credit crisis that is affecting all businesses, particularly new technology. He indicated Congress should drive technology without necessarily prescribing it.

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CFDC is a nonprofit organization comprised of agriculture organizations, ethanol producers, automobile manufacturers, and design and technology firms supporting the use of cleaner burning fuels and fuel additives.