

BIOECONOMY

COALITION OF MINNESOTA

Statement on New Minnesota Bioenergy Production Incentive Program

The Bioeconomy Coalition of Minnesota is pleased with the creation of Bioeconomy Production Incentive Program, which will enable the commercial scale-up of advanced biofuel, renewable chemical, and biomass thermal production in Minnesota using our agricultural and forestry resources. The Coalition supported the creation of this program during the 2014 and 2015 legislative sessions and we are excited by future bioindustrial development prospects for Minnesota. The Coalition is grateful for the leadership of Rep. Rod Hamilton (R-Mountain Lake) and Sen. Tom Saxhaug (D-Grand Rapids) for championing the creation of this program.

Below are statements from Coalition partners:

“Minnesota offers vast agricultural resources as feedstock for renewable products and the State is demonstrating its leadership in offering this incentive for job growth in an emerging industry.”
Dana Persson, Vice President, Commercial Development - Central Minnesota Renewables

“This innovative new program is great news for corn farmers because it adds value to our crop and helps farmers continue to play a key role in next-generation energy initiatives. With new jobs and economic activity, the benefits of this program will ripple well beyond the farm and into other sectors of our economy.” ***Bruce Peterson, Northfield farmer and President - Minnesota Corn Growers Association***

“This production credit sends a strong message to the bioeconomy and to renewable chemical companies like Green Biologics. The ‘green light is shining brightly’ in Minnesota.” ***Joel Stone President North America and Global Vice President Engineering - Green Biologics, Inc.***

“Minnesota Farmers Union is pleased to see this bipartisan legislation pass that will work to ensure Minnesota remains a leader in renewables and provide new opportunities for Minnesota farmers.” ***Doug Peterson, President - Minnesota Farmers Union***

“This program is a perfect example of what can happen when diverse stakeholders come together in good faith, to work toward the highest common denominator, rather than the lowest. We’re proud to be a part of it.” ***Mike Bull, Director of Policy and Communications - Center for Energy and Environment***

“Any company looking to build a successful business in the bioeconomy needs to consider Minnesota for all of its strengths, diversity and demonstrated support for those that are building a better bioeconomy.” ***Todd Taylor, Co-Chair, Clean Technology Group - Fredrikson & Byron P.A.***

“Minnesota once again demonstrates why it is a leader in agriculture and processing. We are pleased to have a production plant in Minnesota that can supply both chemicals and fuels.”

Patrick Gruber, CEO - Gevo

“The support of the bioeconomy production incentive from the legislature and Governor Dayton is evidence of the hard work of the Bioeconomy Coalition, their extensive outreach and education and their ability to create collaboration amongst many diverse stakeholders.” **Nancy Norr, Director, Regional Development - Minnesota Power**

“This new program recognizes the diversity of opportunities for a thriving bioeconomy in Minnesota, by including support for responsible forest management and new markets for wood as a local, renewable and well-managed biomaterial – this program will benefit our communities, our economy and our natural resources.” **Kathryn Fernholz, Executive Director - Dovetail Partners**

“The bioprocess market continues to drive job growth in our Minneapolis office. With Minnesota’s supportive state policies and our talented engineering workforce, we continue to see significant opportunities for our clients to invest in new projects across the state.” **Iain McNerlin, Director – Amec Foster Wheeler**

“Today’s technologies in the wood fiber industries are allowing us to discover many new options beyond conventional paper and saw mills that have been the mainstay of our wood and wood fiber business for decades. The recently passed legislation supporting the new bioeconomy evolution will enhance our ability to expand current, and attract new, end users of wood and wood fiber. This will ensure that northeastern Minnesota remains the forestry capitol of the State. These bills are truly a giant first step into future economic development opportunities and secure job creation.” **Bud Stone, President – Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce**

“This initiative supports innovative Minnesota companies producing chemicals from more renewable or sustainable sources as an alternative to petrochemical inputs to meet increasing demand for safer consumer products.” **Kathleen Schuler, Healthy Kids and Families Program Director – Conservation Minnesota**

“Great River Energy actively supported the ‘Advanced Biofuel Production Incentive’ legislation because it is good for the economy and puts Minnesota in a leadership role in growing an entirely new industry. Our cooperative members in greater Minnesota benefited directly from the good jobs and new markets for their grain ethanol production, and this incentive uses that successful model to help create even more opportunity.” **Sandra Broekema, Manager, Business Development - Great River Energy**

The Bioeconomy Coalition of Minnesota represents is a diverse partnership of agriculture, forestry, environment, and industry groups. The Coalition strives to articulate and implement a Minnesota state policy and regulatory agenda to expand renewable chemical, advanced biofuels and biomass thermal energy industries, along the entire value chain from research and development through commercial production and use.