

# Corn Farmers Return From Lobbying In Washington, D.C.

**BLOOMINGTON, ILL.**

**W**ith all the misinformation hanging in the air these days, getting to Washington, DC to set the record straight in the minds of our elected officials is even more important. The Illinois Corn Growers Association Board of Directors returned from Washington and feel reinvigorated to continue their work in Illinois.

“We covered so many important issues during our three days in Washington, DC that it’s hard to boil our work down to one key message – unless that message was simply that we went out there and told agencies and elected officials alike the truth about corn production in Illinois,” said President Tim Lenz.

Meetings with federal agencies such as the US Department of Agriculture, the US Department of Energy, and the US Department of Transportation; meetings with non-governmental agencies such as the Walton Foundation, the Center for Consumer Freedom, and American Farmland Trust; and meetings with elected officials from both Illinois and other surrounding states allowed your Illinois Corn Growers Association representatives to carry your message everywhere that it needed to be heard.

Key issues covered were the need for crop insurance reform, understanding the Inland Waterways Capital Development Plan (the plan

designed to garner support for funding for new locks and dams on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers), the emotional and non-scientific nature of international indirect land use change, and the EPA’s recent Renewable Fuels Standard 2 rulemaking and how that will affect Illinois corn farmers.

However, the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) issue ended up being a super hot topic.

“Our board was really lucky to be in Washington, DC when the VEETC legislation was proposed. This is legislation that would continue VEETC despite the fact that it will sunset this year. It will be crucial to keeping our ethanol plants running through what we hope is a relatively small period of insecurity and we were able to talk with our legislators about their support for this bill,” Lenz said.

So far, to the best of our knowledge, Congressman John Shimkus is an original sponsor with Congressmen Johnson, Halvorson, Schock, Hare, Foster, Costello and Davis already signed up to co-sponsor.

Overall, the mission to Washington, DC appears to be a complete success. Legislators were contacted, allies were sought, and friendships solidified. Now if planting season can bring the same success to Illinois farmers, 2010 is looking to be a great year. Δ



Link Directly To: **AGROTAIN**



Link Directly To: **MONSANTO**



Link Directly To: **SYNGENTA**