



900 7th St. NW, Suite 820
Washington, D.C. 20001
Ph: (605) 965-2200
poet.com

**Written Testimony of Michael Walz
Vice President of Public Affairs
POET, LLC**

**Submitted to the New York State Legislature
Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Environmental Conservation
February 14, 2023**

POET, the world's largest producer of biofuels, appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments to the New York State Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Environmental Conservation in response to the 2023-24 Executive Budget Proposal. POET supports New York's goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Increasing renewable alternatives in transportation aligns with POET's mission and is essential to mitigating climate change and protecting human health and the environment.

About POET

[POET](#)'s vision is to create a world in sync with nature. As the world's largest producer of biofuels and a global leader in sustainable bioproducts, POET creates plant-based alternatives to fossil fuels that utilize the power of agriculture and cultivate opportunities for America's farm families. Founded in 1987 and headquartered in Sioux Falls, POET operates 33 bioprocessing facilities across eight states and employs more than 2,200 team members. With a suite of bioproducts, including Dakota Gold and NexPro feed, Voilà corn oil, purified alcohol, renewable CO₂, and JIVE asphalt rejuvenator, POET is committed to innovation and advancing solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges. POET holds more than 80 patents and continues to break new ground in biotechnology, yielding ever-cleaner and more efficient renewable energy. In 2021, POET released its inaugural [Sustainability Report](#) pledging carbon neutrality by 2050.

Biofuels Decarbonize Transportation

POET is committed to sustainability and reducing GHG emissions and air toxics from the transportation sector. Because of its emissions benefits, including approximately 46% fewer lifecycle GHG emissions than gasoline, bioethanol plays a crucial role in decarbonizing transportation. Biofuels also can help decarbonize hard-to-electrify sectors of the economy, such as aviation, shipping, and long-haul trucking. There are also air toxics and criteria pollutant benefits associated with higher bioethanol blends, such as reductions in emissions of primary PM and BTEX compounds – without increasing NO_x emissions.

Even under the most aggressive electrification scenarios, New York will have a significant number of liquid-fueled vehicles on the road for decades to come. POET urges this Committee to focus on reducing transportation emissions from the legacy fleet and recognize that biofuels like bioethanol can help accomplish that goal. To achieve the emissions benefits associated with bioethanol, POET urges this Committee to support higher bioethanol blends like E15.

Biofuels can work in tandem with electrification to reduce both lifecycle GHG and tailpipe emissions from most cars, trucks, and SUVs on the road today. For example, research shows that shifting from E10 to E15 in New York's existing light-duty vehicle fleet would eliminate 748,000 metric tons of carbon emissions annually, equivalent to removing approximately 129,400 vehicles. Conversely, ignoring bioethanol as a solution allows the bulk of the state's existing vehicle fleet to emit unnecessary levels of harmful pollutants that disproportionately impact minority and low-income communities.

Lastly, POET urges this Committee to support a properly structured, technology-neutral Clean Fuel Standard as recommended in the Climate Action Scoping Plan. As demonstrated in California and Oregon, a Clean Fuel Standard can successfully reduce transportation emissions from existing liquid-fueled vehicles. The newly-implemented program in Washington State is expected to provide similar benefits. As the Scoping Plan highlights, implementing a Clean Fuel Standard is crucial to developing the market for clean fuels like bioethanol for use in hard-to-decarbonize sectors.

Conclusion

POET looks forward to engaging in a productive dialogue with the state on the meaningful role renewable biofuels can and should play in helping New York achieve its GHG reduction goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions concerning POET's comments at Michael.Walz@POET.COM or (202) 756-5602.

Sincerely,



Michael Walz
Vice President of Public Affairs
POET, LLC