

RFA Letter to the Editor
Submitted to the Wall Street Journal via email June 26, 2023
In response to the editorial “[Big Ethanol vs. Electric Vehicles](#)” (June 23, 2023).

To the Editor,

In its latest opinion piece targeting renewable energy, the Journal once again ignored the latest science and facts regarding ethanol. It’s time we ask the Journal some hard questions about its repeated and unfounded attacks on renewable fuels.

Why does the Journal continue to deride the so-called “ethanol subsidy,” when it expired more than 11 years ago? And why do you continue to ignore more than \$10 billion in annual oil and gas subsidies and tax benefits?

Why does the Journal continue to suggest that the renewable fuel standard increase fuel prices when the evidence at every gas station nationwide shows that the lowest-cost fuel at the pump is the one with the highest level of ethanol?

Why does the Journal insist on citing one outlier study on ethanol’s carbon impacts--funded by an environmental extremist group--that has been repeatedly debunked by university researchers and government labs? The latest analyses from the Depts. of Energy and Agriculture, Purdue, University of Illinois, California EPA, and others all show today’s corn ethanol reduces GHG emissions by 40-50% compared to gasoline—even when including hypothetical “land use change” emissions.

Why does the Journal perpetuate the myth that growth in biofuels production has caused expansion of agricultural land, when official statistics from EPA and USDA show cropland area has fallen steadily since 2007?

And, finally, why does the Journal pretend the energy debate in Washington is about ethanol versus EVs, when everyone knows the real battle is about opening a market dominated by fossil fuels to cleaner, lower-carbon alternatives?

We look forward to your answers.

Geoff Cooper, President and CEO, Renewable Fuels Association