

NDSU

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To: Whom it may concern.

Re: Non-Food Sugarbeet Feedstock Project

This letter is coming to you to share some of my perspectives related to Green Vision's sugarbeet for bio-fuel project. I have become familiar with this project through meetings where I have heard presentations from Green Vision relative to the project objectives and more directly as a researcher investigating sugarbeet production specifically for this project.

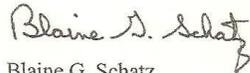
The first comments I would share are more related to my own thoughts concerning the concept of producing sugarbeets for bio-fuel production. In recent years, I have participated in research related to many of the approaches of using agricultural crops for potential processing into a bio-fuel. These crops have included corn for ethanol, selected oilseeds for biodiesel, and various forms of biomass for cellulosic ethanol. As I have become more familiar with the production potentials and projected fuel yields related to these primary approaches, I become especially enthusiastic about Green Vision's sugarbeet project. The projected amount of bio-fuel that may be produced from an acre of sugarbeets is a very significant volume. This fuel yield coupled with the expected efficiencies of their proposed processing plants would distinguish Green Vision's project as a break through toward attaining an efficient renewable fuel supply model.

The production potential of sugarbeet across the state of North Dakota has historically been limited by the specific needs of the sugar industry. This need is annually achieved with sugarbeet production based in the Red River Valley and selected irrigated acres in the Mon-Dak region. However, the state of North Dakota has significant sugarbeet production capacity beyond these traditional production regions. Past research lead by the Carrington Research Extension Center has shown that sugarbeet is very much adapted to both dryland and irrigated environments across the broad Drift Prairie Region of North Dakota. This region of the state presents a tremendous production potential for sugarbeet as it includes the majority of the states irrigated acres along with vast acreage of highly productive dryland farms. Our current research substantiates the projected sugarbeet yields that the Green Vision project is using in their projections. Our researchers expect to continue to document and refine sugarbeet production potential across these non-traditional areas of the state in the years ahead.

Although the potential for viable sugarbeet production in the Drift Prairie Region is significant, the likely benefits extend beyond its value as a cash crop for bio-fuel production. Production of sugarbeet on the lands of this region could ultimately contribute toward an improvement in soil quality and land productivity. The deep tap root of sugarbeet is capable of utilizing water and nutrients at depths of the soil much deeper than the primary crops that predominate cropping systems of the region. Sugarbeet would positively contribute toward addressing some of the soil health concerns that the agricultural community is only now becoming familiar with. One important soils issue that sugarbeet may help to alleviate is the expansion of saline seeps. Sugarbeets ability to extract moisture from the soil and to improve internal drainage directly addresses some of the factors the foster saline seeps.

I would conclude my comments by indicating that I believe the proposed sugarbeet to bio-fuel project being lead by the Green Vision Group has great potential toward the development of a sound and efficient renewable fuel industry. The expected benefits of using sugarbeet in crop rotations along with the projected efficiencies of sugarbeet as a feedstock for bio-fuel production warrant positive consideration toward empowering the continuation of this project.

Sincerely,



Blaine G. Schatz
Director, CREC

Landslide in California

Drought tolerance
due to the deep
root system

Opening the way
down to the moisture
for following crops in
the rotation

0.....1 M.....2 M.....

