



December 20, 2017

To the Editor:

This letter is to respond to Ross McKittrick and Douglas Auld's December 20th piece on Ontario's new fuel standard. It's difficult to tell whether the authors were intentionally misrepresenting the facts or are actually misinformed. Given that at least one of the authors is a known denier of climate science, readers can draw their own conclusions.

A few points of clarification are needed. First, ethanol does not increase costs for consumers, nor is its production costing taxpayers. Second, at a 10% blend of ethanol into gasoline there is no 'mileage penalty' to drivers; ethanol adds value to gasoline, since it provides an octane boost (which reduces refining costs), and is cheaper on a per litre basis than fossil fuels. This is why Canada has seen ethanol blending well above mandated levels. Third, contrary to the author's assertion, by stipulating a minimum lifecycle intensity reduction of the fuel, Ontario's new policy guarantees that there will be greenhouse gas reductions from ethanol blended into gasoline. Fourth, a precipitous increase in farm productivity over the last 20 years has meant that Canada has reduced the acres of land farmed, while still increasing crop production. (This is a global phenomenon.)

To conclude: ethanol doesn't increase food prices; it is cost neutral to consumers; and delivers at least 3.3 megatonnes of GHG emission reductions per year. I think the lesson here is that the facts don't lie.

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