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Major Bioeconomy Summit Attracts Top Names, Sponsors

Summit focuses on bio-fuels as part of U.S. energy security, policy

EAST LANSING – The third Annual **Michigan Bioeconomy Summit** will feature international and national authors, experts and authorities in bio-based fuels who will discuss the importance of – and opportunities in – bio-fuels as part of U.S. energy security and policy. The Summit, themed “Energy Security through Agriculture,” will be held at the Lansing Center on Sept. 17.

“This summit is an excellent opportunity for business, agriculture and research to sit at the same table with some of the top names in the bio-based economy to share new ideas about strengthening our economy and our energy security through agriculture,” **Michigan Agri-Business Association** President **Jim Byrum** said. “The bioeconomy is red hot right now and new discoveries and applications are emerging everyday in important issues of the day, ranging from food to bio-fuels. With gas prices going through the roof and the nation working to break our dependence on imported fossil fuels, it’s even more crucial that we pour our energies into bio-fuels today and into the future. MABA is proud to help build partnerships that can move the bioeconomy in Michigan forward.”

Key speakers include **Robert Zubrin**, an internationally renowned engineer and author. His latest book is “Energy Victor,” where he argues for a robust national commitment to bio-based fuels such as ethanol and bio-diesel to strengthen U.S. energy security. Other speakers include **Mark Stowers** of POET, an expert on ethanol, and **Jerry Morehart** of Marathon Oil Corp.

The Summit has attracted top federal agriculture officials as well as leaders in agri-business. The Summit has also attracted top sponsors, including Michigan Farm Bureau, the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan/Michigan Corn Growers Association and GreenStone Farm Credit Services. MABA is the chief organizer and sponsor of the Summit.

Early registration is available through August 25. Members of MABA and other conference sponsors will get the discounted price of \$100 per person for early registration. Cost for non-members for early registration is \$125 per person. After August 25, the cost for members and other conference sponsors is \$125 and \$150 for non-members.

Michigan agriculture is a \$60-billion-a-year industry, and one of the true bright spots in Michigan's economy. For information, go to www.miagbiz.org or call (517) 336-0223.

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