

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 2008

Major Bio-Economy Summit Attracts Top Names, Sponsors

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

EAST LANSING – The third Annual **Michigan Bio-Economy 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:

- Michigan State University biochemistry and biology professor **Cristoph Benning**, who has recently made news because of his groundbreaking work in converting carbohydrates into oil
- **Robert Zubrin**, an internationally renowned engineer and author, whose latest book “Energy Victor” argues for a robust national commitment to bio-based fuels to strengthen U.S. energy security
- **Mark Stowers** of POET, an expert on ethanol
- **Jerry Morehart** of Marathon Oil Corporation

The Summit has attracted top sponsors, including the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan/Michigan Corn Growers Association, Council for Biotechnology Information, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan State University Office of Biobased Technologies. MABA is the chief organizer and sponsor of the Summit.

The cost to attend the summit is \$125 for members of MABA and other sponsors 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.

###

Brought to you by
*Michigan Agri-Business Association
and Bayer CropScience*
Contact: Jim Byrum, MABA President
(517) 336-0223, e-mail: jim@miagbiz.org

