



Political Papers

JUNE 2013

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR

June 3-28—Session

July 8-Aug 2—Session

August—IN DISTRICT

Sept 9-20—Session

Sept 30-Oct 11—Session

Oct 22-30—Session

Nov 12-21—Session

Dec 2-13—Session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

Jan 9-May 31—Legislative Session

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THE UPDATE ON E15 IN ILLINOIS

The Illinois Corn Growers Association is in support of “Consumer Fuel Choice for Illinois,” a state bill that redefines “gasohol” in Illinois statute. Right now, “gasohol” is defined as 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline, but with the allowable blend of ethanol moving to 15% per the USEPA, we need to update this definition.

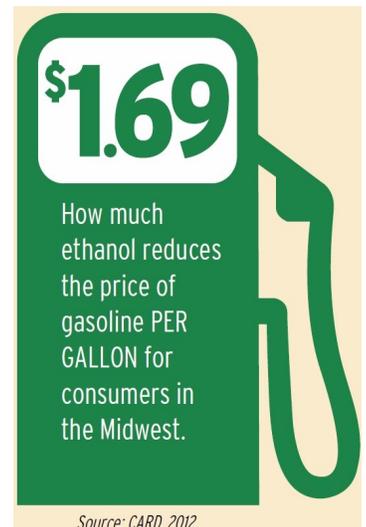
Of course, moving anything in the current Illinois political climate is difficult.

Throughout May, ICGA is send-

ing fact sheets on E15 to the General Assembly weekly. We are reminding them that ethanol means jobs, an investment in rural Illinois, savings for consumers at the pump, and a renewable, environmentally friendly product.

You can help. Call your member of the General Assembly to tell them that you support Consumer Fuel Choice and would urge them to vote “yes.”

Once passed, E15 can enter into the Illinois marketplace.



Source: CARD, 2012

WRDA MOVES IN THE SENATE

Washington, DC officials tell us that a Water Resources Development Act will pass during this session of Congress, giving IL Corn and other cooperators an opportunity to pass reform to the Inland Water Trust Fund and to increase the barge fuel tax to allow more funds for upgrades to occur.

As of this writing, the Senate is debating a WRDA bill (S601) and may consider a RIVER Act bill (S407) introduced by Senator Bob Casey. The RIVER Act includes recommendations of the Capitol Development Plan which ICGA has championed for years.

An amendment, the Managers

Amendment, is expected to be offered to the WRDA bill that includes federalizing Olmsted and increasing the rehab threshold from \$14 to \$20 million. These are key aspects of Casey’s RIVER Act that ICGA supports.

Regardless of how these particular bills play out, what ICGA hopes for is an end to the funding from the Inland Water Trust Fund (a fund paid into by river users) going towards Olmsted. The Olmsted Lock and Dam is a project that has extended well past its proposed end date with major cost overruns. If river users are expected to continue to pay for Olmsted, there will be no money left for other river up-

grades. Everything being left at status quo, LaGrange Lock would not be upgraded until 2070, when it would be well over 100 years old.

Additionally, ICGA hopes for an increase in the barge fuel tax that will increase the money flowing into the Inland Water Trust Fund to ultimately fund more upgrades up and down the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

Turns out, the drought did have a silver lining—low water on the Mississippi that made headlines early in the year caused many members of Congress sit up and take note of how vital the system is and what the U.S. stands to

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MAKE THE MOST OF AUGUST RECESS

Make the most of your August recess by seeing your Congressman or Senator while he or she is near your hometown. If possible, request a face-to-face visit with your him or her. Congressional staff report that face-to-face lobby meetings have the biggest impact of any advocacy strategy on members of Congress.

Remember, your member of Congress works for you. If you talk to them, share your personal story, help them understand life on the farm, what you are worried about and what they can do to help, they

will listen. And they will remember you when they vote.

Especially after you've met and made a connection with your member, make appearances at town halls and candidate appearances in your hometown. When your member of Congress sees you out and about, it accomplishes three things:

1. It reminds them of you, who you are and the story you shared with them.
2. It strengthens your connection with the member.

3. All of the sudden you are someone who is politically active and a thought-leader in your area. You might be influencing votes. You are someone to pay attention to.

You can definitely amplify your connection with policymakers by attending town hall meetings and other public events.

Need help making a connection? ICGA can help you make appointments and contributions this August. Give us a call!



If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically to save printing costs, please email your request to lmitchell@ilcorn.org.

A MORE ACTIVE ICGA PAC

Your Illinois Corn PAC continues to become more and more involved and active. Supporting our Illinois delegation financially makes us an important part of their team and someone to come to with questions about agriculture and advice about issues that effect us.

So far in 2013, ICGA PAC has contributed the following:

- Cong Peter Roskam - \$5000
- Cong Bill Enyart - \$2500
- Cong Bill Foster - \$2500
- Cong Bobby Rush - \$2500
- Cong Dan Lipinkisi - \$2500
- Cong Danny Davis - \$2500
- Cong Rodney Davis - \$2500
- Cong Cheri Bustos - \$2500
- Cong Tammy Duckworth - \$2000
- Cong Jan Schakowsky - \$1500
- Cong Luis Gutierrez - \$1000

- Cong Mike Quigley - \$1000
- Cong Brad Schneider - \$1000

To date, the ICGA PAC has focused on Chicagoland members in 2013.

The ICGA PAC formula values members that hold key leader-

ship positions, vote along with NCGA and ICGA positions, and are responsive and available to Illinois farmers.

We look forward to new relationships and open doors with our Illinois delegation.



Pictured: Dave Loos, Jim Rapp, Congressman Bill Foster, Aron Carlson, Ted Mottaz, Stefan Mueller during the ICGA March lobby visit to Washington, DC.

more ... WRDA MOVES IN SENATE

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lose without it.

Illinois Senator Dick Durbin has gotten involved in the issues following the low water scare in January and continues to be a leader in the Senate for reform and river system upgrades.

If you'd like to see new locks and dams in your lifetime, consider getting involved in this issue. Call Senator Durbin and Senator Kirk

to let them know that you support lock and dam upgrades on the Mississippi. Help them justify making this a priority issue in the 113 session of Congress.



In 2012, ICGA visited the Olmstead Lock & Dam, still under construction. Paul Taylor and Jeff Scates discussed the completed lock, still lacking a functional dam, that will

CHANGING LEGISLATIVE CLIMATE

Passing a Farm Bill has grown more and more difficult over the years. Like many other federal programs, it has grown larger, more complicated and more expensive. It has grown far beyond the traditional agriculture and commodity support programs we associate with a Farm Bill. Food stamps, and similar nutrition assistance programs, now account for 80% of the half-trillion spending in the 2012 Farm Bill. Indeed, the chief obstacle to passing a Farm Bill last year was disagreement over how much spending in these programs could be reduced. The debate over the 2012 Farm Bill, then, was really not about the farm.

Therein lies a deeper, existential challenge for supporters of any Farm Bill and American agriculture. America's societal, economic and political landscapes have changed radically in the past 100 years. A nation founded by a largely agrarian society has morphed into a nation of city-dwellers. One-in-four Americans now live in just 9 cities, each with a population over 5 million.

More than half of all Americans, 55%, live in cities with a population of 1 million or more.

America has long been the world's melting pot. A beacon for freedom and greater economic opportunity, the nation has long attracted immigrants from every corner of the world. For much of our history, this mass migration originated in Europe. In the later part of the 20th Century, immigrants from other parts of the world flocked to our shores.

In 1940, the American populace was 89.8% white and 9.8% black. All other races, including Asian and Hispanic, were grouped in an "Other" category and accounted for just 0.4% of the population. Over the next three decades, the population was largely unchanged, with Whites 87.5% of the population, Blacks 11.1%, and Other 1.4%.

The next three decades would witness a dramatic shift in the nation's populace. Between 1980 and 2010, America's Hispanic population would more than double,

while the Asian population more than tripled. In the last census, the White share of the population had fallen to 79.6%, while the Black population edged slightly higher to 12.9% of the country. Asians, the fastest growing immigrant group, were 4.6% of the population. Of this population, those indicating Hispanic origin is 15.8% overtaking blacks as the nation's second largest minority group.

Looking ahead to projections over the next few decades suggests these demographic trends will only increase and again reshape the population. By 2050, the nation's population will be 70.8% white, 14.4% black, 9.6% Asian (including 27.9% Hispanic origin). At current trends, sometime before the end of this century, Asians will likely overtake blacks as the second biggest minority group.

Republicans win overwhelmingly the votes of rural voters. In the last Presidential election, Mitt Romney

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CHANGING CLIMATE (cont.)

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won around 60% of the rural vote. But the rural voters' share of the electorate is shrinking. In 2004, 1 in 4 ballots were cast by a rural voter. In 2012, that number had shrunk to 1 in 5.

In 2000, white voters made up 80% of the electorate, roughly matching their share of the population. Blacks were 9%, Asians 2% and Hispanics 7%, all below their share of the population. All told, minorities made up 20% of the electorate.

In 2012, however, minorities made up 28% of the electorate, with just 72% of voters who were white. White voters were far below their share of the electorate, a trend that first emerged in 2008. Black voters matched their share of the population, while Asian and Hispanic voters lagged their share of the populace, although their overall turnout increased over 2000.

The collapse of support for Republicans among Asians and Hispanics over the last four cycles warrants particular attention. Support levels among white and black voters have remained static.

The farm community can no longer command the political leverage to which it was accustomed. Changes in the nation's demographics have pushed the population into heavily urbanized clusters, far removed from the agrarian roots of the country. Even in farm states, populations are becoming increasingly urbanized. These trends will make it difficult for the agricultural community to focus attention on its issues.

There was a time the agricultural community could rely on a strong block of lawmakers from rural America to champion its issues. Changes in demographics, economics and an ongoing political realignment signal that time is over.

DONATE

Donating to the ICGA PAC is easy!

Simply complete your personal check and fill out the form below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____

PAC contributions are not tax deductible and cannot be treated as a business expense. For ICGA's PAC Policies and Guidelines, contact the ICGA office at 309-557-3257.