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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **VGPA Applauds Governors Response, Highlights Benefits of Biofuels**

Chesapeake, Va (April 23, 2008) – Virginia Grain Producers Association (VGPA) applauds Governor Tim Kaine and his April 15, 2008 response to Delegate Bob Marshall's calls for a biofuels mandate waiver. As Governor Kaine points out, there are several factors contributing to the increase in food prices; however, energy costs are one of the largest issues. This country exhibits a considerable dependency on petroleum-based fuel and we must actively seek alternative sources of energy such as, grain-based ethanol to meet our needs.

Del. Bob Marshall who is also running for the U.S. Senate, called for a waiver citing biofuels have put food prices on the rise. Governor Kaine states in his recent letter, "There are other factors that have had a substantial effect on corn and other crop prices including ...increased fertilizer and diesel fuel costs, and increasing worldwide demand," the letter states.

"The VGPA applauds Gov. Kaine for his understanding of the facts as they apply to the ongoing food and fuel debate," said Molly Pugh, VGPA executive director. "A waiver of biofuels would have little to no affect on food prices and would actually increase the current cost of gasoline. Such a waiver would stall any progress we have made thus far towards energy independence and would also remove a much needed additional market for Virginia grains."

VGPA notes that the Commonwealth is taking considerable measures to preserve its farmland but one of the best ways to protect farmland is for producers to be profitable. Additional markets like grain-based ethanol provide another opportunity for Virginia's grain. Ethanol also provides an opportunity for every consumer to take part in increased environmental responsibility; using a fuel that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of petroleum-based products.

Virginia's agriculture industry must continue to build its markets and secure the future of its largest economy; production agriculture.

VGPA also recognizes the need for balance and is committed to working with all end-users of Virginia grain to protect the future of all Virginia producers.

VGPA thanks Governor Kaine for his commitment to biofuels, to Virginia's agricultural markets and to increased environmental responsibility for all Virginia citizens. .

Please visit us at [www.viriniagrains.com](http://www.viriniagrains.com) to learn more on the food vs. fuel debate and the environmental benefits to renewable fuels.

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