

Honors 203/Chemistry 110 Ethanol Debate Simulation

Format of Simulation:

Illinois State Senate, hearing of the Subcommittee on Global Warming and Energy, a subcommittee of the Committee on Environment and Energy.

The Governor has proposed that a \$5 million fund be created to support alternative fuels for Illinois to reduce our greenhouse gas consumption. Three bills have been introduced in the state senate that hope to make use of the Governor's mandate. One, SimBill85, proposes a \$2.5 million program to support E85 infrastructure (subsidies for E85 pumps and filling stations and E85 production facilities). Another, Sim-Bill2010, proposes \$3 million in farm subsidies and industrial tax credits for corn-based ethanol production and \$1 million for research on corn-based ethanol production. The third bill, SimBill515, mandates diesel fuel sold in the state would be composed of 5% biodiesel by 201. SimBill515 also proposes that 10% of the ethanol found in gasoline sold in the state would be from cellulosic (non-corn based) feedstocks. This bill proposes \$4 million in research funds to support the development of biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol.

The Bills have been referred to the Environment and Energy Committee prior to landing in appropriations because the Senate and the Governor are interested in considering one comprehensive bill. The subcommittee has been formed to make a recommendation back to the parent committee.

We will engage in a simulation of hearings held by the committee. Each lobbyist/advocate will be given 5 minutes to present a statement to the subcommittee members. Following their statement, the subcommittee members will have 9 minutes to ask questions of each advocate (3 minutes per committee member). The simulation will take place on **Monday, April 13th**.

Assignments:

Students taking on the role of Lobbyist/Advocate: Bring to the simulation a two to three page mini-statement outlining your main arguments for the subcommittee (10 points) and be prepared to make a five minute statement and answer questions (10 points).

Students taking on the role of State Senator: Bring to the simulation a list of ten potential questions you may wish to ask of those testifying in the hearing (5 points). You should have at least one question that is nominally directed to each person. During the simulation, you may ask these questions or others as you see fit (10 points). After the simulation, you will meet with the other subcommittee members to make a recommendation to your parent committee and you will each prepare a one to one and a half page synopsis of your position for your constituents citing your reasons for the position you are taking (5 points).

Roles:

- Illinois State Senator, Democrat, representing a Chicago district
- Illinois State Senator, Democrat, representing a suburban district ***KLS
- Illinois State Senator, Republican, representing a rural district
- Lobbyist, Environment Illinois
- Lobbyist, American Petroleum Institute
- Organization Founder: Clean Biofuels for Illinois
- Family Farm Owner, Board Member National Corn Growers Association.