



NEWS RELEASE

FLOWER POWER USA / HERITAGE FARM COOPERATIVE

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FLOWER POWER USA / HERITAGE FARM COOPERATIVE Testify at USDA Public Hearing on Implementing Farm Bill Energy Title IX

Washington DC., September 4th, 2008. New renewable energy programs authorized under the recently enacted Farm Bill, are key components of the strategy to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, a leading federal government agency implementing renewable energy policies, has received new authority under Title IX of the Act.

To discuss the best ways to harvest clean energy in rural areas, and to gather public comments and suggestions to the new provisions of the farm bill, a day-long public meeting was held at USDA headquarters in Washington DC on September 4th, 2008.

Ion Manea, President of FLOWER POWER USA and Director of HERITAGE FARM COOPERATIVE made a presentation to the participating public and to a panel of distinguished experts from the highest levels of energy leadership in the US Government.

His recommendations for the interpretation of "alternative fuel" and "biorefinery" are reflecting the intent of the Congress as expressed in the purpose of the Act "to assist in the development of new and emerging technologies for the development of the advanced fuels," so as to:

- a.. Increase the energy independence of the United States;
- b.. Promote resource conservation, public health, and the environment;
- c.. Diversify markets for agricultural products;

Manea's interpretation of "advanced biofuels" includes, specifically, vegetable plant oils that could be used directly or indirectly as fuel, fuel additive or fuel feedstock for the production of renewable energy.

The broader interpretation will expand the opportunities for on-farm producers of renewable fuel to fully benefit from the provisions of the bill.

His presentation was appreciated as "informative and enlightening" and he was commended for his "exemplary efforts to educate and lead farmers and renewable energy business across the United States".

Ion Manea also thanked the USDA for the opportunity to provide input and comments and for creating a forum for industry, farmers and government.

A video recording of the public meeting has been uploaded and is available at:

[http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/farmbill/08/general.html#Public Meeting Se](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/farmbill/08/general.html#Public_Meeting_Se)