

# OPINION

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## Biofuels are accelerating fossil fuel use

Phillip Box's letter supporting New Mexico biofuels is so full of errors, it's hard to count them all, but I'll try.

Box mentions "reducing emissions," but creating corn ethanol generates three times the CO<sub>2</sub>; he doesn't mention biofuels need 1,000 times the fresh water than producing gasoline. New Mexico is in the northern Chihuahuan Desert, and its fringes; Phillip Box and Senator Udall propose continuing processes which use 1,000 times the fresh water to produce fuel which is corrosive to our fuel systems, reduces vehicle fuel efficiency, and drives up prices of all foods in North America and worldwide.

Locals might recall eight years ago when Sapphire Energy was to bring a lot of money to the Borderland with algae-based biofuels. Where is Sapphire Energy's headquarters? Las Cruces? Nope, San Diego, CA. And the algae-based "green crude?" A cruel dream dashed by inexpensive US energy from fracking and directional drilling.

Corn-based ethanol creates a market where none would exist in the absence of special-interest mandates. Plants convert only tiny amounts of sunlight into biofuels by themselves. Plant efficiency improves using ammonia-based fertilizer but it takes another fossil fuel, natural gas, to

create that fertilizer. Examining the energy used for the ammonia-based fertilizer and poor fuel efficiencies of ethanol-enhanced fuels compared with gasoline, you'll see that this is an indefensible energy and monetary waste which exist only if legal mandates <renewable fuel standards> insure these wasteful practices.

Put another way, corn ethanol is parasitic— it takes more energy to produce than can be extracted. Biofuels aren't displacing fossil fuels—they're accelerating fossil fuels use.

Visit "Why the United States should reject biofuels as part of a Rational National Energy Strategy" by "Ike" Kieffer.

Philip Box and Senator Udall, brothers in wasteful practices with our money!

*Robert W. Endlich  
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