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### **McCain's ethanol policy "slap in the face" to Illinois farmers**

Colleen Callahan, Democratic candidate in the 18th Congressional District, on Wednesday reacted strongly to GOP presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain's call to end subsidies for U.S. ethanol production. McCain blasted U.S. tariffs on Brazilian ethanol imports, going as far as saying the Brazilian product made from sugar cane is "much more efficient than ethanol from corn."

"That's just a slap in the face to Middle America and particularly the farmers in Illinois and other corn-growing states," Callahan said. "I understand that's a policy that might be popular elsewhere, but the very idea of trying to save money on the backs of hardworking farmers here in Illinois and across the Midwest while spending countless billions on a war in Iraq strikes me as absolutely shameful."

Callahan said she strongly supports corn-based ethanol along with other renewable alternative energy sources such as wind power not only because they are efficient and sound from a technological standpoint, but also because they bring precious jobs and business opportunities to central Illinois.

Critics of the U.S. ethanol subsidies say they have added to a sharp spike in global food prices. But White House economic advisors within the Bush administration admit that corn-based ethanol is responsible for only about 2 percent of the overall increase in food prices.

"Ending the federal incentives for corn-growers would completely destroy an emerging industry that has repositioned itself to meet the world's growing demand for renewable alternative energy sources," Callahan said. "I can understand why Sen. McCain is saying what he's saying, but his logic and thinking are just plain wrong."

Callahan brings an extensive background in agricultural issues to the race. A longtime agricultural broadcaster in central Illinois, Callahan runs a family farm near Peoria with her husband, Dick.

To interview Colleen Callahan or for audio clips on this issue, please contact campaign press secretary Terry Towery at 309.696.4249 or DeAnna Schertz at 309.241.5604.

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