



ST. JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Your letters May 25, 2006

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Great save

On behalf of Consumers Oil Co. (a cooperative) and our farmer members, I would like to publicly thank Sen. Charlie Shields for saving the AGP St. Joe biodiesel plant.

The AGP cooperative has provided a ready market for soybeans from this part of the state for many years. Their expansion plans include more soybean processing and a new biodiesel plant that will help farmers all over this part of the state. Competing interests tried to stop the AGP plant by legislatively changing the rules for participation in the Missouri biofuels program.

Sen. Shields stood fast, insisting that any changes to the law had to protect the AGP investment decision. Shields brokered a deal whereby since AGP's biodiesel feedstocks are primarily of Missouri origin, AGP remains eligible to participate in the Missouri program. This action also saves 24 new manufacturing jobs.

Successful cooperatives like AGP make their investment decisions among several states. We are pleased that Charlie Shields has the clout as Senate floor leader to protect the integrity of our Missouri investment programs.

Harold Spire

General Manager

Consumer Oil Co.

Maryville, Mo.