

## **Before the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Pennsylvania Senate**

### **Hearing on Waste to Fuels**

#### **Testimony of Andy McConnell, Renewable Fuels Trader, Sheetz**

Thank you, Chairman Yaw, Chairwoman Comitta, and the honorable members of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for allowing Sheetz to share our story with you today. My name is Andy McConnell and I serve in the role of Renewable Fuels Trader for Sheetz.

Sheetz currently operates 743 stores located throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, and Michigan. Sheetz is a consumer-centric company that is committed to making a positive impact in the areas that we operate. Our commitment transcends beyond products to the services that we offer to create a clean environment for the communities in which our stores are located. Our company has embraced innovation since our inception in 1952 and we continue to make significant investments to be a leader within the convenience industry. Today, I would like to expand on how Sheetz continues to offer innovative solutions by connecting our in-store food sales with the fuel we sell at the pump.

Sheetz is projected to sell 8 million gallons of blended biodiesel this year. Biodiesel is made from a variety of feedstocks including used cooking oil and soybean oil to create a less carbon-intensive fuel that can be used in truck engines without any modifications. We recently collaborated with Chevron Renewal Energy Group and Restaurant Technologies to maximize our resource efficiency, reduce waste, and regenerate used cooking oil at the end of its life cycle.

On average, Sheetz produces roughly 400 pounds of used cooking oil per month at our locations which offer 24/7 food service. Used cooking oil is a waste product that typically can end up in a landfill for some restaurants. Our partnership with Restaurant Technologies and Chevron Renewable Energy Group prevents the product from going into a landfill and instead creates an opportunity to repurpose it into fuel.

The used cooking oil from Sheetz stores is sold to Restaurant Technologies through an automated solution that delivers, stores, filters, monitors, and then collects the used product. The used cooking oil is then sourced to Chevron Renewal Energy Group where it undergoes a transesterification process to make a renewable fuel. This process creates a reaction between fat or oil molecules and alcohol to make biodiesel and renewable diesel. This circular supply chain then brings a product back to Sheetz in the form of biodiesel which is incorporated into our renewable fuel offerings.

Beyond reducing waste, Sheetz is contributing to the agriculture communities as well by purchasing renewable fuels produced by soybeans and corn. Sheetz is an industry leader in the sale of UNL88, which is made with 15 percent ethanol as opposed to the traditional 10 percent ethanol blend. Of our 743 stores, we offer UNL88 at 488 (177 in PA alone), which is 15 percent of the country's total available UNL88 sites. Leveraging higher blends of renewable fuel

like ethanol and biodiesel can make an immediate positive impact on the environment. Using more of these renewable fuels is critical to lowering emissions and decreasing air pollution. Sheetz is committed to improving the lives of our employees, guests, and communities. By expanding our footprint in renewable fuels, Sheetz provides our customers with proven methods to decrease carbon emissions by leveraging the existing infrastructure of our company.

I want to again thank the Committee Leadership and members for holding this hearing today and I look forward to future discussion. I am happy to take any questions.