



## 2025 New Orleans Clean Fuels Congressional Tour

### Sustainable Fuels: Building the Ag Economy

The Clean Fuels Alliance Foundation, led by Executive Director Tom Verry, hosted a comprehensive educational tour in New Orleans on April 25, 2025, for participants to learn about the biodiesel and renewable diesel industry. Fourteen Congressional staff working in one or more of the following areas: energy and commerce, transportation & infrastructure, ways & means, and agriculture, attended the one-day tour. The morning started with an overview of clean fuels and an industry update by Paul Winters, followed by a session on sustainability by Veronica Bradley.

The first stop was Diamond Green Diesel (DGD). DGD is a joint venture between [Valero Energy Corporation](#) and [Darling Ingredients Inc.](#) It is the largest renewable diesel producer in North America and the second largest in the world. DGD's current production capacity near New Orleans and Port Arthur, TX, is about 1.2 billion gallons per year. **Neil Fox**, Executive Director and Commercial Manager, led the tour of the facility. Participants saw first-hand how renewable diesel is produced and learned about the company's investments and the value the industry brings to renderers.

The tour continued to Bunge Chevron Ag Renewables, an agribusiness company that



*Figure 1: Group photo at Bunge*

supplies raw and processed agricultural commodities and specialized food ingredients to a wide range of customers. Bunge has operated a soybean processing plant and grain export facility in Destrehan for decades. **Harrison Lang**, Logistics Manager, and **Luke Blocker**, Assistant Plant Manager, discussed the recently announced joint

venture that would expand the facility to support Chevron's renewable diesel production in Geismar, Louisiana. Participants learned how soybeans are crushed to produce meal for food, feed, and oil for many uses, including biodiesel and renewable diesel.

After lunch, **Andy Brown** from the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation discussed the value of biodiesel and renewable diesel to Louisiana's soybean industry. Then, representatives from biodiesel and renewable diesel producers, including Ag Processing, Inc (AGP); Chevron Renewable Energy Group; Darling Ingredients; Gevo, Inc; and Minnesota Soybean Processors, discussed the impact of federal and state policies on the industry. Participants gained insights into the industry's growth in relation to policy implementation and the effects of policy instability on businesses.



*Figure 2: Brent Boeckman discusses ARTCO's sustainability goals for its fleet.*

**Lastly, Cameron Conolty** from IMTT Terminal discussed the storage and handling of fats, oils, and fuels. IMTT has 19 terminals serving North America's dynamic distribution centers at both ends of the Mississippi Valley, at both ends of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River System, on the Atlantic Coast in New York and Virginia, and on the Pacific Coast. Participants received a tour of the facility to show how fats and oils – such as soybean oil – are stored and piped to the Diamond Green Diesel refinery and to other locations for food and additional uses.

ARTCO is ADM's wholly owned river transport company. It operates a fleet of barges, tugs, and crew boats to manage complex grain handling, storage, import and export operation. ARTCO NOLA General Manager **Brent Boeckman** discussed the company's sustainability goals for its fleet; ARTCO currently fuels its boats with biodiesel in some locations and would use more if it could. Participants saw a first-hand look at the complexity and scale of the grain handling industry.

The day concluded with a roundtable discussion at Harbor Seafood & Oyster Bar, providing an opportunity for further industry discussion. The event concluded with closing remarks from **Tom Verry**, Executive Director of the Clean Fuels Alliance Foundation.

The next tour will take congressional staffers to New York City in June to see how biodiesel and renewable diesel fit into the city's decarbonization plans. Stay tuned to learn more.

Speakers Included:

**Paul Winters**, Director of Public Affairs, Clean Fuels Alliance America

**Tom Verry**, Executive Director Clean Fuels Alliance Foundation

**Veronica Bradley**, Director of Environmental Science, Clean Fuels Alliance America

**Neil Fox**, Diamond Green Diesel (DGD), Executive Director and Commercial Manager

**Cameron Conolty**, IMTT Terminal

**Andy Brown**, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation

**Luke Blocker**, Bunge Chevron Ag Renewables, LLC- Assistant Plant Manager

**Harrison Lang**, Bunge Chevron Ag Renewables, LLC -Logistics Manager

**Brent Boeckman**, ARTCO NOLA, General Manager

**A special thank you to our New Orleans' tour sponsors:** Chevron Renewable Energy Group, ADM, AGP, Clean Fuels Alliance America, Gevo, Inc., Darling Ingredients, Innovative Ag Services, Minnesota Soybean Processors, Western Iowa Energy.

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