







National Clean Fuels Technology & Health Effects Leadership Forum Presenter Biographies



C. Boyden Gray

Ambassador C. Boyden Gray is the founding partner of Boyden Gray & Associates, a law and strategy firm in Washington, D.C., focused on constitutional and regulatory issues.

Mr. Gray worked in the White House for twelve years, first as counsel to the Vice President during the Reagan administration and then as White House Counsel to President George H.W. Bush. In the Reagan administration, he

was Counsel to the Presidential Task Force on Regulatory Relief, for which he wrote the original Executive Order 12291 requiring cost-benefit analysis and White House review of regulations (later renumbered as current EO 12866). In the George H.W. Bush Administration, Mr. Gray was in charge of judicial selection and was also instrumental in the enactment of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the Energy Policy Act of 1992, and a cap-and-trade system for acid rain emissions. In 1993, he received the Presidential Citizens Medal. Under President George W. Bush, Mr. Gray was U.S. Ambassador to the European Union and U.S. Special Envoy to Europe for Eurasian Energy.

Mr. Gray practiced law for 25 years at the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering and was chairman of the Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Section of the American Bar Association from 2000 to 2002. Early in his career, Mr. Gray helped to develop the Business Roundtable and served as its first counsel. He is an adjunct professor at Antonin Scalia Law School and a former adjunct professor at NYU Law School (teaching energy and environmental law). Mr. Gray is on the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Council, the Federalist Society, Reason Foundation, and the Trust for the National Mall.

Mr. Gray earned his A.B. magna cum laude from Harvard, where he was an editor of the Crimson, and his J.D. with high honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was editor-in-chief of the Law Review. Mr. Gray served in the United States Marine Corps, and after law school, he clerked for Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.





1990.

Timothy Wirth is the President of the United Nations Foundation and the Better World Fund. Both organizations were founded in 1998 through a major financial commitment from Ted Turner to support and strengthen the work of the United Nations.

Wirth was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986 where he focused on environmental issues, particularly global climate change and population stabilization. In 1988, he organized the historic Hansen hearings on climate change. With his close friend, the late Senator John Heinz (R-PA), he authored "Project 88", outlining the ground-breaking "Cap and Trade" idea which became law in the Clean Air Act Amendments of









He authored the far-reaching Colorado Wilderness Bill which became law in 1993, and with Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY) he authored major legislation focused on population stabilization.

As President of the UN Foundation (UNF) since its inception in early 1998, Wirth has organized and led the formulation of the Foundation's mission and program priorities, which include the environment, women and population, children's health, and peace, security and human rights.



Doug Sombke

In 1978, Doug Sombke made the decision to farm full-time shortly after marrying his wife, Melenie. Times were tough, but he was determined to make a go of it. Along with farming, the couple raised four children; Brett, Nikki, Bryce and Bryan. Times are tough again in agriculture, but Doug's determination remains as strong as ever. Today, his three grown sons take care of the day-to-day farm responsibilities so that this fourth-generation Conde crop and cattle producer can serve as President of South Dakota

Farmers Union. Doug has served as President since 2005 supporting South Dakota's family farmers and ranchers and giving them a strong voice in Pierre and DC.

In 2017, Doug was elected to serve as president of Farmers Union Industries, an organization that owns several agribusinesses whose profits help fund the operations of five state Farmers Union organizations as well as the National Farmers Union. Always one to stand up for what he believes is right, before Doug served as President of SDFU, he served as Vice President from 1999 to 2001 and served in a leadership capacity for East River Ropers, Ferney Centennial, Brown County Weed Board, St. John's Lutheran Church, Ferney Farmers Union Cooperative and the Brown County Farmers Union. In recognition of his efforts, Sombke was awarded the Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer Award at the local, state and national level for his work on behalf of the family farmer.



Dr. Plinio Nastari

Dr. Nastari holds M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics, from Iowa State University. Phi Kappa Phi (1983), Gamma Sigma Delta (1983). Was Professor of Economics at FGV – The Getúlio Vargas Foundation, in São Paulo, in undergraduate and graduate level courses (MBA, Masters and Doctoral programs) from 1984 to 2001. Member of PAPSAC, the Private and Public, Scientific, Academic and Consumer Food Policy Group, at Harvard University, in Boston, since 2012. Professor at the MBA in Agribusiness Joint

Programme established between ESPM in São Paulo and Université de Nantes, France, since 2015. Former Executive Director and President of the Board of the Brazilian Association of Automotive Engineers (AEA), from 2000 to 2002, during the 1980s he helped the design of ethanol specifications which enabled the use of ethanol in fuel injected engines.









He has served as member of the Technical Committees of Brazil's Interministerial Council on Sugar and Alcohol, National Energy Commission, and Commission for Reexam of the Energy Matrix. He has assisted the Brazilian government in Energy Planning (1984-86 and 1991-93), industry deregulation (1997-1999), trade negotiations (1991-2004), and trade disputes.

Representative of the Civil Society Specialist in Energy at the National Council on Energy Policy, at the Federal Government of Brazil, designated for the period of 2016 to 2018. Honorary Citizen of the State of Pernambuco, Legislative Assembly of the State of Pernambuco, 2016. Great Master, Order of Merit of Anhanguera, State Government of Goias, 2017. With extensive experience in trade negotiations and trade disputes at the International Trade Commission and the World Trade Organization, Dr. Nastari has acted before the Brazilian Government as Chief Economist in the trade disputes involving ethanol exports to the United States (US ITC), and subsidized sugar exports from the European Union, European Union bananas import regime, and Brazilian regime for the import of used and retreaded tires (WTO). He is Arbitrator at the "Camara FGV de Arbitragem" (Arbitration Chamber of the Getulio Vargas Foundation), and at "Camara de Conciliação e Arbitragem da Sociedade Rural Brasileira") and has acted as Expert Testimony in many cases, at this Chamber and at ICC, the International Chamber of Commerce, in Paris.

Lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – Second Assessment Report (2AR), and Consultant for Biomass Energy other than Wood, to the World Energy Council. Co-founder and Member of the Sustainable Biofuels Consensus (Bellagio Consensus), Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, Bellagio, Italy, 2008, and Participant of the Bled Strategic Forum, since 2008 in Bled, Slovenia. Dr. Nastari is Member of the World Sugar Committee, at ICE Futures (Intercontinental Exchange) in New York, where recommendations are made for improvements in contract rules and other matters related to the world trade of sugar. Member of the Council on Infrastructure of ACSP – Commerce Association of São Paulo, in São Paulo, since 2012.

President and CEO of DATAGRO Consulting Ltd., one of the world's leading consulting company specialized in agricultural markets, serving clients in 41 countries. He leads a team of 97 collaborators at Datagro, housed in six offices (Alphaville, Sao Paulo/Capital, Ribeirao Preto, Santos, Recife and New York), assisting a host of companies in market analysis, investments in production and logistics assets related to sugar, ethanol and other agrindustrial activities, in countries in the Americas, Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Throughout the years, Dr. Nastari established a fruitful cooperation between Datagro and the International Sugar Organization (ISO), jointly organizing the prestigious Sugar & Ethanol Conference that precedes the Person of the Year Award (BrazilCham) and the New York Sugar Dinner for the last ten years. He was Chairman of the 19th ISO Annual Seminar in London. He was the Keynote Speaker at the 2013 New York Sugar Dinner.

Organizer of the Sugar & Ethanol Summit – Brazil Day, for five consecutive years in London, in cooperation with Brazil's Ministry of External Relations. Organizer for seventeen consecutive years of the traditional Datagro International Conference in São Paulo that precedes the São Paulo Sugar Dinner, and the Datagro Ceise Br Fenasucro Conference in Sertãozinho, SP, the largest equipment fair for sugar & ethanol in the world. Organizer of the Global Agribusiness Forum, in partnership with the Brazilian Rural Society (SRB), ABRAMILHO (corn producers),









ABCZ (cattle producers), Citrus BR (orange juice producers) and Forum Nacional Sucroenergetico (sugar & ethanol producers) a biannual venue which has the official support of the USDA, the European Commission, and the governments of France, Germany, Portugal, Italy, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Israel, Turkey and Cuba.

Dr. Nastari is a frequent speaker at energy, biofuels and agribusiness conferences around the globe, with frequent attendance in London, Paris, Brussels, New York, Washington, Delhi, Bangkok, Tokyo, Barcelona, Kyoto, Johannesburg, Bled, Orlando, São Paulo, Singapore, Amsterdam and Dubai.

Married to Rute, the couple has three children, Francisco (32), Louise (30) and Luiz Felipe (29), and three grandchildren, Carolina (2), José (1) and Anna Sophie (1).



Reg Modlin

Reg Modlin recently retired from a 43-year auto industry career. For over twenty-five years he participated and led efforts in product environmental and safety topics. Subject matter included development of related policy, legislation and regulations, as well as compliance demonstrations for FCA Automobiles (Chrysler) North American products sold world-wide.

In course of his career, he engaged in numerous activities related to the identification and pursuit of alternative fuel options for transportation. Among them were the Future Fuels Coalition, 25 X 25, the Michigan Governor's Alternative Fuel Advisory Council, and the California Fuel Cell Partnership and other regional and state organizations. Alternative fuels were included in the many efforts undertaken through CRC, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, and USCAR. After retiring, Mr. Modlin has continued to engage in discussions concerning the need for and definition of Future Fuels that will be necessary to provide efficient and clean operation of transportation in the coming decades.



Carol Werner

Carol Werner served as EESI's Executive Director from 1998 to 2019. Ms. Werner has more than 35 years of public policy experience on energy and environmental issues. She has organized hundreds of Congressional briefings and many other types of forums, has been a frequent speaker at many conferences and workshops on energy and environmental issues in EESI's

program areas, and has been involved with numerous legislative accomplishments. Carol currently serves on the board of the National Center for Appropriate Technology, the board of the NASEO Institute, the Advisory Board of Planet Forward at George Washington University, and the Advisory Board of the President's Climate Action Project (PCAP), among others. She served on the steering committee for the peer review of the Department of Energy's Bioenergy R&D Program, the Environmental Advisory Committee of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy, the Policy Committee of the American Solar Energy Society, and the editorial board of *BioCycle Magazine*. Carol was a co-founder of the U.S. Climate Action Network and the Surface Transportation Policy Project.









Reid Detchon

Reid Detchon is Senior Advisor for Climate Solutions at the United Nations Foundation. He previously served as the Foundation's Vice President for Energy and Climate Strategy from 2006 to 2017. He also served as Executive Director of the Energy Future Coalition, a non-partisan domestic policy initiative.

Mr. Detchon previously served as Director of Special Projects in Washington for the Turner Foundation; as a principal at Podesta Associates (now the Podesta Group), a government relations and public affairs firm in Washington; as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Renewable Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy from 1989 to 1993; as principal speechwriter for Vice President George H. W. Bush; and as a staff member and legislative director for U.S. Senator John Danforth of Missouri.

Anne Steckel

Anne Steckel is the Principal and Founder of Ardent Strategies, LCC, a consulting firm focused on energy, agriculture, environmental and transportation issues. Anne brings over 20 years of experience in Washington, DC working on legislative, regulatory, advocacy, policy and political issues. Anne was most recently the Vice President of Federal Affairs for the National Biodiesel Board. While at NBB, she ran the Washington D.C. office,

spearheading outreach to the White House, the Congress and managing all federal legislative, regulatory and legal efforts. While at NBB she led a successful campaign to increase biodiesel levels in the Renewable Fuel Standard, a critical victory for the domestic biodiesel industry.

Before joining the National Biodiesel Board, Anne served as chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson of California, a senior member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. Anne has also overseen legislative issues for several members of Congress, including U.S. Senate Minority Whip Richard Durbin of Illinois. Additionally, Anne has directed government relations at the American Farm Bureau Federation and government affairs at Growth Energy, a renewable fuels trade group.

Steve Vander Griend



During his tenure as a United States Marine, Steve developed a strong mechanical background. As Technical Director for the Urban Air Initiative (UAI), this background, along with technical data collection and engineering relationships, has offered beneficial insight into America's energy and environmental needs. For the last decade, Steve has been involved in numerous projects surrounding the use of higher blends of ethanol. Recent testing,

encouraged by Steve, helped to publish numerous Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) papers on ethanol's performance and emission benefits.

In 2019, Steve was awarded the High Octane Award by BBI International and Ethanol Producer Magazine for his passion and unstoppable pursuits to benefit the ethanol industry. Steve has









also been instrumental in raising awareness within the scientific community, ethanol industry and general public on the health and emission benefits of ethanol. His dedication to engine and fuel properties has created a new level of research and understanding related to fuel ethanol.



Geoff Cooper

Since October 2018, Geoff Cooper is President and CEO of the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), the leading trade association for America's ethanol industry. Collectively representing the majority of U.S. ethanol industry leaders and supporters, RFA is working to drive expanded demand for

American-made renewable fuels and bio-products worldwide.

Previously he served as RFA Executive Vice President, where in addition to overseeing market analysis and policy research, he provided regulatory support and strategic planning for the association and its members. Geoff has also focused on issues related to lifecycle analysis, sustainability and ethanol co-products.

He has served as an appointed member of the California Air Resources Board's Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program Advisory Panel, as well as the Oregon Clean Fuels Program Rulemaking Advisory Committee. Geoff was also appointed to the Midwest Governors Association's (MGA) Advanced Transportation Fuels Advisory Group, as well as MGA's Low Carbon Fuels Policy Advisory Group. He also serves on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Agricultural Advisory Committee and was named to the U.N. Expert Roundtable on Biofuels & Food by the Commissioner for Human Rights. He has testified on behalf of RFA before state and federal legislative and regulatory bodies.

Geoff has discussed ethanol, energy, and agricultural issues on CNBC, Fox News, Fox Business News, and National Public Radio, and has been quoted by the Associated Press, Reuters, Bloomberg, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and numerous other print and online media outlets. He received the ethanol industry's prestigious "High Octane Award" in 2017 and has twice been selected as one of "Top 100 People in the Bioeconomy" by the readers of Biofuels Digest.

Prior to joining RFA, Geoff served as Director of Ethanol Programs for the National Corn Growers Association. In this role, he led research and promotional efforts to increase the production and use of corn-based ethanol. Previously, Geoff served as a Captain in the U.S. Army, specializing in bulk petroleum supply and logistics.

A Wyoming native, Geoff graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. He earned his master's degree at Webster University in St. Louis.



Ernie Shea

Ernie Shea is the Founder and Principal of Natural Resource Solutions (NRS), LLC. NRS designs, organizes and implements national and regional sustainable land use initiatives which deliver renewable energy, climate change, biodiversity, economic development as well as soil, water and air quality









solutions and improvements. Shea has over 35 years of experience at the national, state and local level where he has worked in partnership with government agencies, agricultural and conservation organizations and business leaders helping landowners and managers conserve, protect and ensure the orderly development of natural resources. Previous positions held by Shea include Chief Executive Officer of National Association of Conservation Districts (1986-2004) and Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture (1982-1986).

Among his current activities, Shea facilitates the 25x'25 and North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliances. He also serves as the President and Chief Operating Officer of Solutions from the Land, a not-for-profit entity dedicated land-based solutions to global challenges. Ernie and his wife Karen reside in Lutherville, Maryland where they enjoy sailing and spending time with their three grown children and their families.



David Hallberg

David has more than 35 years of experience in the biofuels industry. After time spent in the Middle East after the 1973 war, Hallberg received his Master of Arts degree in International Relations and Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC. During his years in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Hallberg served as legislative

director and Chief of Staff and was actively involved in drafting and enactment much of the ethanol industry's formative legislation.

As the founder and first President/CEO of the Renewable Fuels Association, Hallberg helped foster the ethanol industry's growth by harnessing the support of both the public and private sectors. Hallberg has extensive international experience, including serving as a member of the U.S. delegation to the G8 Forum on Climate Change in Shonan Village, Japan.

He is the inventor of three U.S. patents to produce high octane ethanol with radically reduced carbon footprints. Hallberg is a recipient of the American Coalition of Ethanol Grassroots and Merle Anderson awards. A South Dakota native, he currently lives in Omaha with his wife, Becky.



Burl Haigwood

Michael Burl Haigwood has more than 30 years experience working in the fields of clean energy, agriculture, and transportation. He was formerly Vice President of Operations for Information Resources, Inc. (IRI) directing the company's market assessments and analyses working with ethanol producers, petroleum and chemical manufacturers, and agriculture interests. IRI provided crucial market information to Congress and Federal agencies during

the Clean Air Act deliberations and later for the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Mr. Haigwood is currently a member of the Advisory Board to the Clean Fuels Development Coalition as well as a board member of the Clean Fuels Foundation. The Foundation has created a range of educational materials and programs including the Ethanol Across America Campaign, the FlexFuel Awareness Campaign, and the Ethanol Minute Radio Program. The Foundation









also has produced a series of Issue Briefs, White Papers, and videos in cooperation with the CFDC and other stakeholders.



Doug Durante

Mr. Durante serves as the Executive Director of the Clean Fuels Development Coalition (CFDC), a non-profit group he founded in 1988 representing automotive, agricultural, and other alternative energy interests supporting programs and policies that expand the market for ethanol and other biofuels. Mr. Durante has extensive experience working on energy,

transportation, and environmental issues, including as Director of Public Affairs for the joint House and Senate National Alcohol Fuels Commission, and in the Office of Alcohol Fuels at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Mr. Durante was on the negotiating committee between industry and the US Environmental Protection Agency for the reformulated gasoline and oxy fuel programs created in the Clean Air Act of 1990. He served as an adviser on the ad hoc Senate Committee that created the Renewable Fuels Standard and represents ethanol and biofuel interests nationally and internationally.



Jim Seurer

Jim Seurer is the CEO of Glacial Lakes Energy (GLE), a four-plant ethanol production cooperative headquartered in Watertown, South Dakota with 4,100 shareholders and combined annual production of over 350 million gallons. Jim grew up in central South Dakota and graduated in 1986 from Northern State University with degrees in Accounting and Business Management. He spent the first 18 years of his career in the Colorado credit union industry until

he and his family made the decision to move back to South Dakota. In 2005, Jim entered the value-added agriculture industry first as a CFO with South Dakota Soybean Processors near Brookings, and then as CFO with GLE in early 2007. Jim assumed the CEO duties at GLE in late 2008.

Jim is most honored by the fact that his management teams worked persistently alongside the Board of Directors to bring the company back from the brink of bankruptcy. In the past ten years, GLE has become a high performing, reputable, and financially sound business again. Most recently, GLE along with the SD Farmer's Union and the Urban Air Initiative has been aggressive in promoting the E30 Challenge, a highly successful promotion of higher ethanol blends throughout northeastern South Dakota making Watertown the "Premium E30 Capital of North America". Jim is a licensed CPA (inactive) and currently represents GLE as a director on local organizations such as the Lake Area Technical Institution Foundation and the Watertown Economic Development Corporation. He is the past treasurer of the Renewable Fuels Association. He and his wife DeeDee have four children and three precious granddaughters.