Delayne Johnson is the CEO of Quad County Corn Processors, a quiet business that revolutionized the way we think about biofuels.

In 2014, Delayne’s team in Galva, Iowa became the first to successfully commercialize cellulosic ethanol from the fiber leftover from corn. No pageantry. No fanfare. Just the devotion, ingenuity, and hard work of a handful of innovators from a small Iowa town.

Quad County created a way to squeeze more fuel from the same kernel of corn, using less energy and sparking enormous economic opportunity for more biorefineries across the country. Delayne’s company produces two million gallons of cellulosic ethanol annually.

And just like that, one kernel of grain now produces conventional and cellulosic biofuel, shrinking ethanol’s carbon footprint and delivering a huge leap in clean fuel for American motorists.

That’s innovation sparked by the Renewable Fuel Standard, and that’s worth keeping.

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