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February 24, 2021

Senator John Stinner, Chair and Members of the Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

RE: Agency 84, standard budget review process for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Emphasis on the Appropriations Committee questioning NDEE's action steps in regard to AltEn
Ethanol in Mead, Nebraska

Position Neutral/Requesting Information

Please include this position statement from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for Agency 84.

Dear Senator Stinner and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska requests that your committee ask serious questions of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in regard to AltEn Ethanol near Mead, Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy needs to hold this company accountable for their destructive handling of pesticide coated seed in the process of making ethanol. As we all know, water is vital to our livelihoods, as well as Nebraska's economy. The LWVNE supports legislative action to proactively identify and manage emerging threats to human health including, but not limited to, chemicals, pathogens, steroids, antibiotics, hormones and nutrient contaminants in drinking water. Please consider asking these questions when deciding on funds appropriation.

1. Why was AltEn allowed to make ethanol using seeds coated with pesticides?
2. Why wasn't AltEn ordered to shut down when violations were first discovered nearly two years ago?
3. Is there a plan to clean up the contamination that has occurred?
4. Who will pay for the cleanup? Will this become an EPA Superfund location?
5. What will be the cost to Nebraska taxpayers?
6. How will contaminated soil and water be restored and rehabilitated?

Please take time in this hearing to understand how NDEQ and NDEE will use their funds to address the AltEn Ethanol environmental pollution crisis.

Sincerely,

Janelle Stevenson, Co-Director
Natural Resources and Energy, LWVNE

Sherry Miller, VP for Action
LWVNE