**Comments to CARB regarding potential changes to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard**

**Specifically, a proposed cap on virgin oil feedstocks, and consideration of distillers corn oil as a virgin oil**

Concern around the use of virgin oils as feedstock for the creation of biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) stems from the fungibility of soy oil with palm oil for human consumption via fry cooking, consumer food products, etc… and concerns around decreasing supply of these edible oils and commensurate price increases (i.e. food price inflation). Distillers Corn Oil (DCO) does not compete in these markets in any way, as it is unfit for human consumption without additional refining.

The U.S. EPA defines DCO under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) regulations as follows: *"Distillers corn oil means corn oil recovered at any point downstream of when a dry mill ethanol or butanol plant grinds the corn, provided that the corn starch is converted to ethanol or butanol, the recovered oil is unfit for human food use without further refining, and the distillers grains remaining after the dry mill and oil recovery processes are marketable as animal feed*.”

Importantly, corn oil from wet mills is specifically excluded from qualifying as a feedstock and generating a RIN under the RFS solely because it is fit for human consumption without further refining. DCO from a dry mill is specifically approved because it is unfit for human use and does not degrade the quality of the resulting animal feed coproducts (e.g. distillers grains). Utilizing DCO and other inedible fats, oils and greases as feedstocks for renewable diesel, biodiesel and SAF should be encouraged, not limited.

CARB has strong track record supporting DCO as a low-CI, waste oil feedstock. Reclassifying DCO as a virgin oil, and either capping its use or changing how its CI is measured, would represent a stark reversal in policy. The LCFS has led to significant investments and a technology shift in the ethanol industry nationwide and an about face from CARB would undermine confidence in the program, and slow the state’s progress in reaching their net zero goals.