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OPENING REMARKS TO ABLC ASSOCIATION SESSION

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“Getting to the Promised Land”

Good morning! My two decades of experience in this field as a civil servant, political appointee and now a consultant span what I call *“The Silver Age of Bioenergy.”* When I started in the mid-1990s, this sector was still seen as a niche, something that only a scattered few cared about. By the end of that decade the Clinton Administration and a bipartisan Congress had lit the fuse for bioenergy that burned ever brighter through the George W. Bush years and into the Obama presidency.

But, along the way that momentum and this industry was mugged by some new realities. What sparked *“The Rise and Stall of Bioenergy”*? Today, this industry faces early headwinds of huge political, market and technological changes with tectonic plate shifts underway in the energy, agriculture and transportation sectors.

For example, a major national discussion over the role and size of the federal government seems certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 elections. Republican candidates for President no longer bow reflexively to the RFS, even in Iowa. Meanwhile, the left may be starting to see biofuels as aiding and abetting the long primacy of oil and the internal combustion engine.

And, the world seems to be growing daily more dangerous and unpredictable, with greater risks to global oil supplies. Does a robust bioenergy sector offer the ultimate insurance policy to the USA and its allies?

This all has created a new stew of confusion, dissension and debate, characteristic of a period of great transition.

Friends, the path to *the Promised Land, the Golden Age for bioenergy* really depends on understanding and adapting to the many changes whipsawing our country and your industry. This panel will tackle these and other pressing issues - - and then it's your turn. Start writing down your questions and send them in. It's a great kickoff for this important conference.

Now, to our panel. Most of the time I will only introduce them by their titles, since most of you know most of them - - and their bios are in your packet. But, I may add a few anecdotes. Our first speaker is Mike McAdams, President, Advanced BioFuels Association (ABFA).