



April 12, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your support for rural America, agriculture and the jobs and industries that support local economic prosperity. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to champion the entrepreneurs, farmers, and manufacturers working to grow our nation's domestic renewable energy industry.

We represent the unique visionaries who have made investments in homegrown, domestically produced renewable fuels. The domestic biodiesel industry supports more than 60,000 jobs across the U.S. and delivers more than 2 billion gallons of domestically produced, cleaner burning fuel to consumers every year.

We laud the commitment you made to support the Renewable Fuel Standard. Many of our stakeholders were there in Iowa when you promised to stand behind this important policy driver to enhance biofuel blending as a means to grow our economy and bolster our nation's energy independence.

However, recent actions taken by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) threaten your commitment to uphold the statutory intent of the RFS. Contrary to your steadfast support, the EPA has undermined the RFS through recent actions granting so-called "hardship" exemptions designed for small refiners. According to press reports, the EPA has granted exemptions to roughly 20 refineries for 2016 obligations and 25 refineries for 2017 obligations, with many more currently under consideration. One of the nation's largest refiners, Andeavor, received a hardship exemption for three refineries, while their net profits last year were approximately \$1.5 billion dollars. At least two other refineries with hundreds of millions of dollars in annual profits were also granted exemptions. This is hardly evidence of hardship, nor are these "small" refiners.

The EPA's efforts to reduce compliance obligations for enormously profitable companies will have an immediate and significant impact on the very farmers and industries you committed to support. The exemptions granted to these refiners could lead to a reduction of hundreds of millions of gallons of domestically produced biodiesel. This has a direct impact on consumers, renderers, fuel marketers, biofuel producers and hundreds of thousands of American soybean

farmers. These actions are set amidst a backdrop of trade challenges and already low commodity prices which are contributing to severe economic uncertainty in rural America.

The actions taken by the EPA undermine the integrity of the RFS and stand in direct contrast to your pledge of support in Iowa. Farmers and biofuel producers across the nation share your vision for a strong and economically vibrant rural America, but the EPA's actions call into question that commitment. We therefore wish to add our voice to those urging you to call on the EPA to cease all RFS waiver actions until, at the very least, a more transparent and impartial process for considering and granting waivers is in place. We share the concern that EPA continues to take actions that will undermine the RFS and violate the good-faith discussions you have fostered toward a true win-win solution.

We look forward to working with you and Administrator Pruitt to support a strong RFS and carry out the vision you outlined to fulfill our energy needs while growing our economy.

Sincerely,



Ryan Findlay  
CEO  
American Soybean Association



Donnell Rehagen  
CEO  
National Biodiesel Board



Nancy Foster  
President & CEO  
National Renderers Association