

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We write in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) for advanced biofuel for calendar year 2018 and biomass-based diesel for calendar year 2019, as well as the recent Notice of Data Availability (NODA). The NODA requests comments on reducing previously finalized RVOs, threatening business plans and investments already made based upon a final rule issued in December 2016. These proposed volumes do not meet actual biodiesel production capacity in the United States, and could have a negative impact on jobs and economies in rural communities across the nation. Therefore, we urge you to increase these volumes in the final rule.

Biodiesel is the first EPA-designated advanced biofuel under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) to reach commercial scale production nationwide. The biodiesel industry has met RFS criteria for growth each year, exceeding the goals that Congress envisioned when it created the RFS with bipartisan support. In addition, biodiesel has consistently made up the majority of the advanced biofuel volumes. This ability to meet or exceed RVOs coupled with the substantial investment made by the biodiesel industry indicate that these fuels offer the best opportunity for continued growth in the near future.

EPA's proposal would hold the biomass-based diesel volume for 2019 stagnant at 2.1 billion gallons and decrease the advanced biofuel volume for 2018 to 4.24 billion gallons. These proposed volumes do not reflect the existing potential for the biodiesel and renewable diesel industries in our states and could cause near-term job losses and discourage investment in capacity and new fuel development. It is estimated that every 500 million gallons of increased biodiesel production supports roughly 16,000 jobs.

Further, EPA's NODA solicits comments on whether it could further reduce the total, advanced, and biomass-based diesel volumes through several different waiver mechanisms. However, there is ample available feedstock, refining capacity, and room for growth in the domestic biodiesel industry. The industry is poised for growth, in accordance with the intent of the law, if EPA sends the market signals with increased volumes. Reducing volumes and especially those RVOs that were previously finalized is disruptive, unprecedented, and very troubling.

We have made great progress through the RFS in diversifying our nation's fuel supply while creating and sustaining jobs, strengthening local economies, generating tax revenues, and

improving energy security. We urge you to support higher RVOs for biomass-based diesel and advanced biofuels in the final rule to encourage additional development and use of this fuel.

Thank you for your consideration.

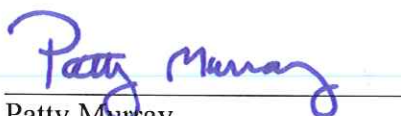
Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



John Hoeven  
United States Senator



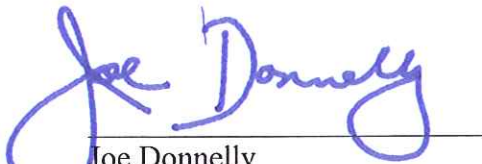
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator




Jerry Moran  
United States Senator




Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

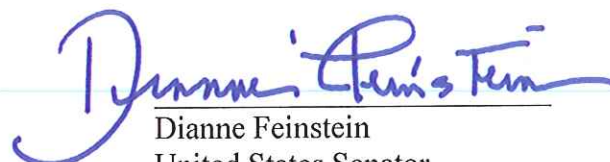
  
Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator

  
Pat Roberts  
United States Senator

  
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator


  
John Thune  
United States Senator

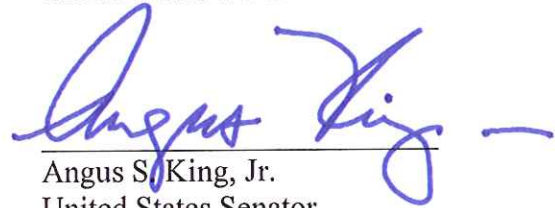
  
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

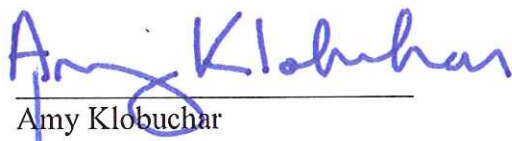
  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator


  
Al Franken  
United States Senator

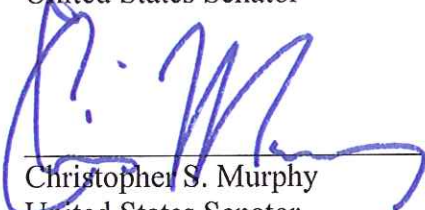
  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

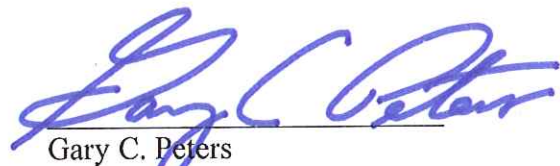
  
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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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United States Senator



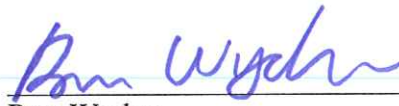
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Ron Wyden  
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