Dear Chairwoman Kaptur, Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Members Simpson and Joyce:

We write today to express our concern regarding the small refinery waivers the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in consultation with the Department of Energy (DOE), continue to provide to certain oil refineries which would otherwise have to meet the requirements of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Their cumulative impacts are harming efforts to create jobs and keep our air clean across the country.

While the House of Representatives did not include report language addressing this issue in its versions of the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bills, the Senate did include report language. As a result, the final version of the bills continued the practice of encouraging the EPA and DOE to provide waivers to certain oil refineries. This report language was cited by then Acting Administrator Wheeler during his confirmation hearing before the Environment and Public Works Committee as a justification for vastly expanding the number and volume of waivers granted to certain oil refineries which would otherwise be required to meet the blending requirements of the RFS. To date, the aggregation of these waivers over the two years now total approximately 2.25 billion gallons of clean, renewable fuel that otherwise would have been part of the nation’s transportation fuel mix, effectively rolling back blending levels to 2013.

The resulting impact of these waivers have contributed to higher gas prices for our constituents at the pump as well as elevated levels of harmful air and carbon pollution emissions. The 116th Congress should not stand idly by while the Environmental Protection Agency potentially issues any additional unnecessary waivers and should instead consider steps that could help unlock the full health and economic benefits of clean, renewable biofuels.

We urge you to ensure that report language which accompanies the final versions of the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations bills for the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy no longer encourages weakening the requirements and related benefits of the RFS.
Sincerely,

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Member of Congress
Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress

Don Bacon  
Member of Congress