United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 24, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We are writing regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule setting blending targets under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for 2017. We urge you to ensure that the final rule promote growth in the U.S. biofuel sector and capture economic opportunity rather than drive investment overseas.

When Congress adopted the RFS in 2005, and expanded it in 2007, it intended to put in place a stable, forward-looking policy to drive innovation and investments in biorefining capacity and distribution infrastructure to bring biofuels to American consumers.

The stability of the policy has led to hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in the biofuels sector. America's production capacity has expanded more than threefold since 2005 with fuels such as biodiesel, cellulosic, recycled-waste, algal and other advanced biofuels. The biofuel industry supports hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the country, reduces the environmental impact of our transportation and energy sectors, and cuts our reliance on foreign oil.

As a result of the Agency's consideration of distribution infrastructure when setting the Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) for 2014, 2015, and 2016, contrary to the clearly defined waiver authority provided by Congress, biofuel investment has fallen and projects are moving overseas.

We cannot afford to cede our leadership position in the world. A strong RFS, and more biofuels, make our country more secure. It increases competition and choice, strengthening our economy. We urge you to take the opportunity to get the program back on track by setting blending targets where Congress intended and by removing the distribution waiver.

Sincerely,

Chuck Grassley
Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

John Thune
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Mark Kirk
United States Senator

Al Franken
United States Senator

Joni Ernst
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Deb Fischer
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Roy Blunt
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Pat Roberts
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Bill Nelson
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Edward Markey
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator