

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.

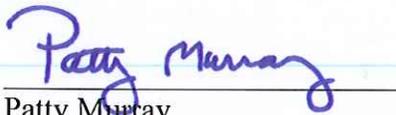
Sincerely,



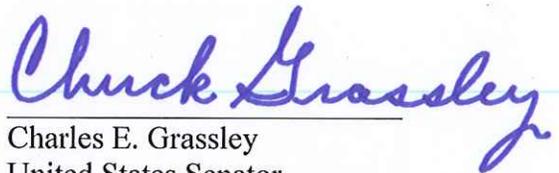
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



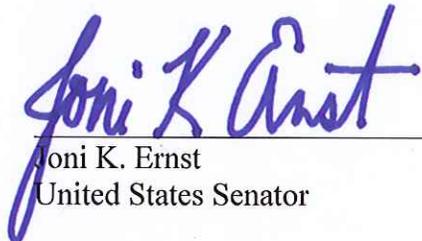
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



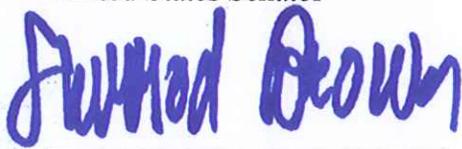
Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



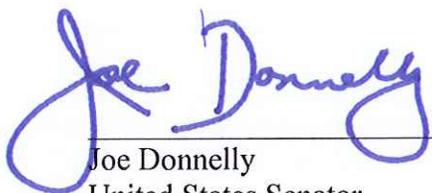
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



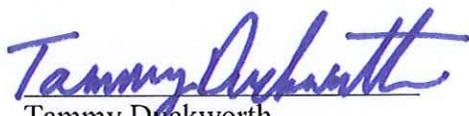
Jerry Moran
United States Senator



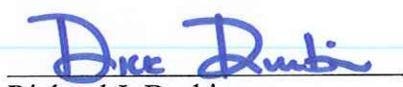
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

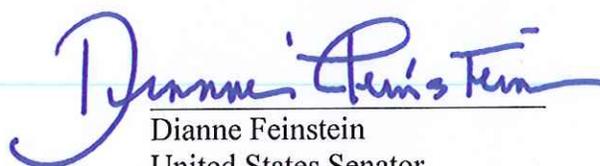

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

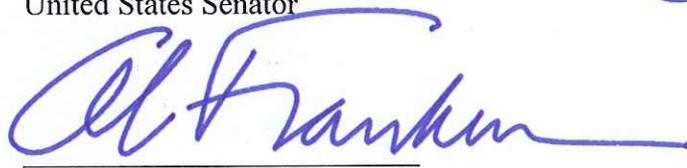

Pat Roberts
United States Senator

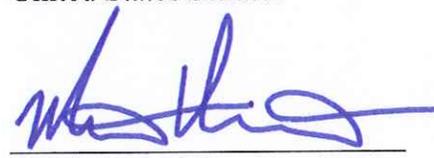

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

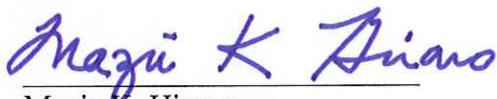

John Thune
United States Senator

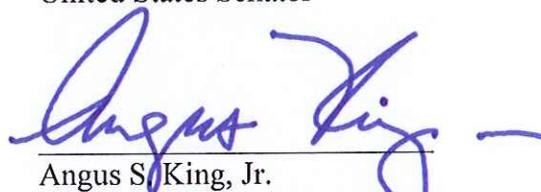

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Al Franken
United States Senator

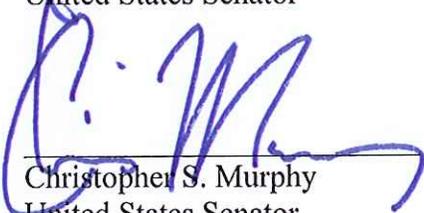

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

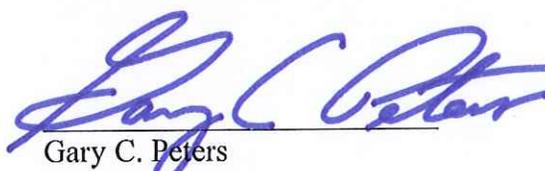

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Claire McCaskill
United States Senator


Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator


Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



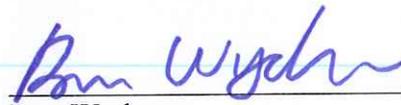
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator