

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 20, 2015

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

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

After significant delays in establishing biodiesel volumes under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), we were pleased to see the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently move forward with a new proposed rule. While the proposal is a positive step for biodiesel, we remain concerned that the proposed biodiesel volumes for 2016 and 2017 fail to adequately recognize the domestic biodiesel industry's production capacity and its ability to increase production.

This new four-year proposal for biodiesel volumes from 2014 through 2017 is a much needed step toward restoring stability and certainty to the domestic biodiesel industry. EPA's actions over the past year have led to tremendous uncertainty and hardship for U.S. biodiesel producers and thousands of their employees. As a result, many plants have been forced to reduce production and some have been forced to shut down, leading to layoffs and lost economic productivity.

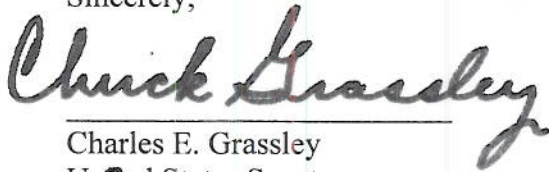
While the proposal put forward by EPA is an improvement over the November 2013 proposal, it would only grow biodiesel volumes to 1.9 billion gallons by 2017 which is just slightly more than the industry's actual production of more than 1.8 billion gallons in 2013. We believe the domestic biodiesel industry is fully capable of additional growth and urge the EPA to revise the volumes in the final rule. Based on the biodiesel industry's projections for future capacity, growth, and demand, we believe increases to at least 2 billion gallons in 2016 and at least 2.3 billion gallons in 2017 would be reasonable and prudent.

Congress created the RFS to incentivize domestic production of clean renewable fuels, while still allowing imports to participate in the RFS. As a result, we have seen a steady stream of imported biodiesel participate in the program. Since EPA announced its new proposed rule, imports bound for the U.S. have increased significantly and are expected to keep growing. EPA's decision earlier this year to allow imports from Argentinean renewable fuel producers to participate in the RFS must be taken into account, and biodiesel volumes must be set at sufficient levels to prevent displacement of domestic production.

Biodiesel is the first EPA-designated advanced biofuel under the RFS to reach commercial scale production nationwide. It is exceeding the goals that Congress envisioned when it created the RFS with bipartisan support in 2005, while creating jobs, generating tax revenues, reducing pollution, and improving energy security. We urge you to support continued growth in the

domestic biodiesel industry by making reasonable and sustainable increases in the biodiesel volumes for 2016 and 2017 in the final rule.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



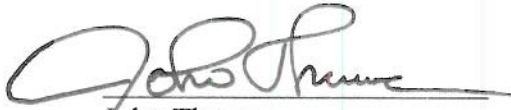
Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



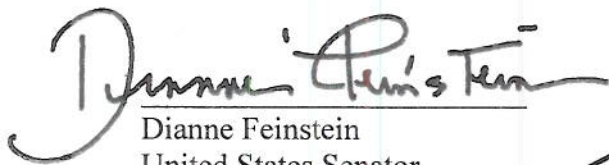
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



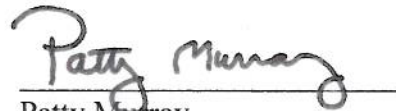
John Thune  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



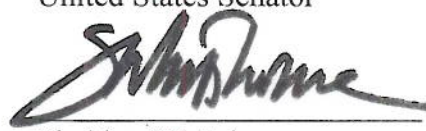
Patty Murray  
United States Senator



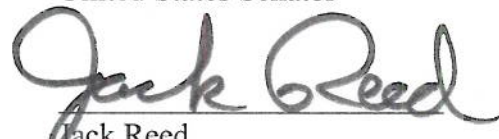
Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



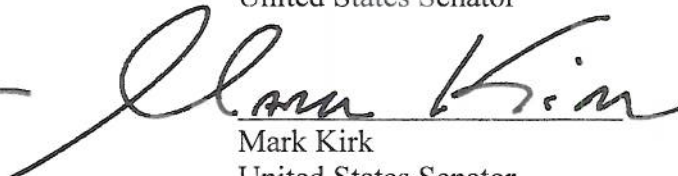
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

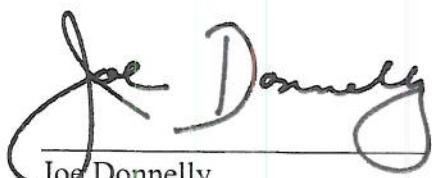


Mark Kirk  
United States Senator



Dick Durbin  
United States Senator

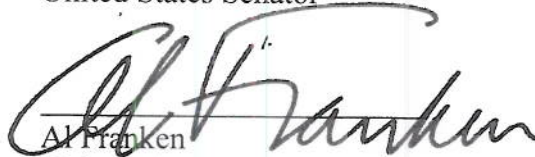




Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator




Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



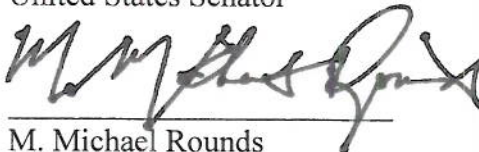
Al Franken  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



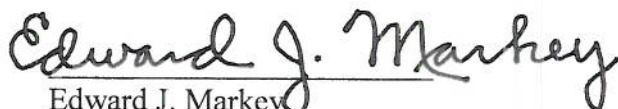
Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



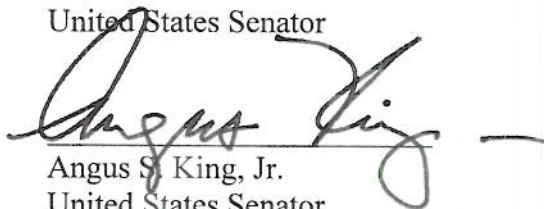
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator




Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



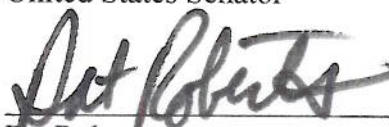
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



John Hoeven  
United States Senator



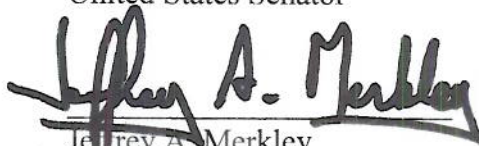
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Pat Roberts  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



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Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
The Honorable Shaun Donovan, Director, Office of Management and Budget