

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.

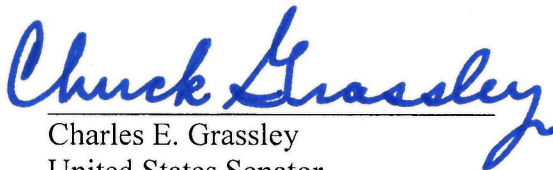
When Congress adopted the RFS in 2005, and expanded it in 2007, it intended to put in place a stable, forward-looking policy to drive innovation and investments in biorefining capacity and distribution infrastructure to bring biofuels to American consumers.

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,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

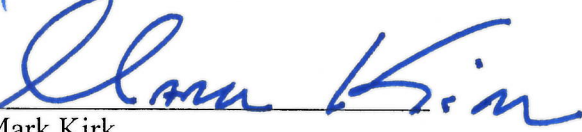

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



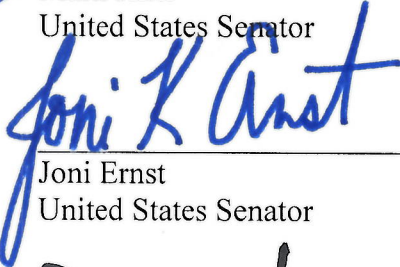
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



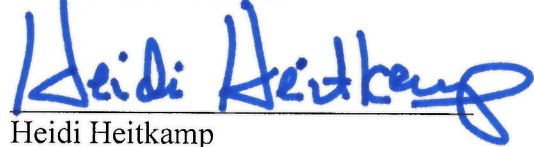
Mark Kirk
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



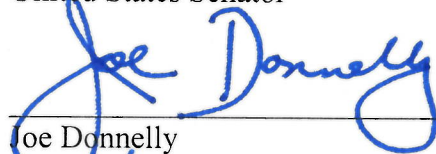
Joni Ernst
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



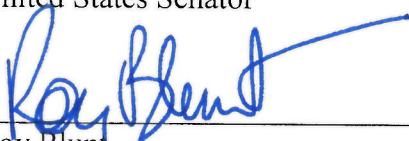
Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



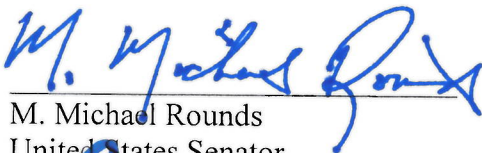
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



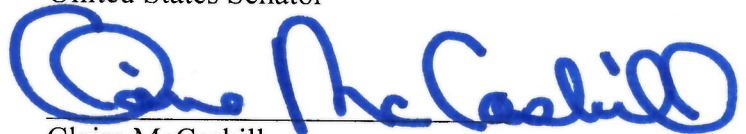
Roy Blunt
United States Senator



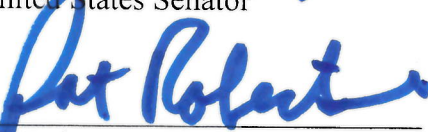
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



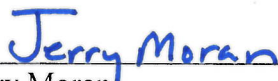
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Lindsey Graham
United States Senator



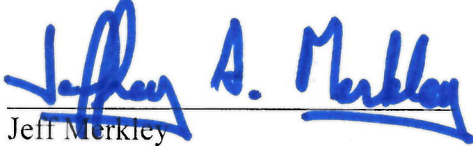
Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



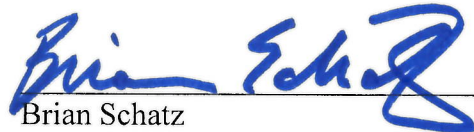
Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



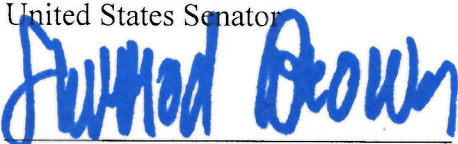
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



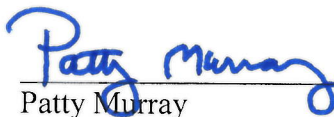
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



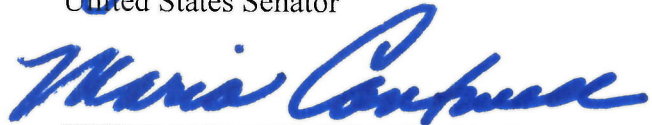
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



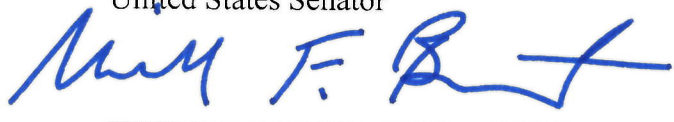
Patty Murray
United States Senator



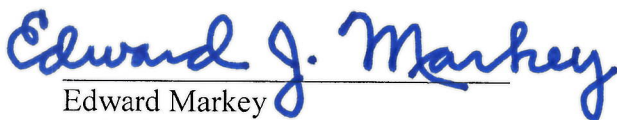
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



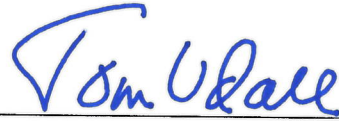
Edward Markey
United States Senator



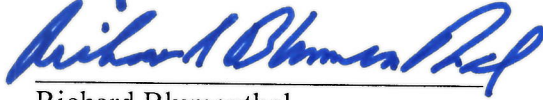
Jon Tester
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Warren", written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Udall", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Udall
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Blumenthal", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator