

March 16, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are proud veterans of the U.S. military who currently work in America's ethanol industry. In serving our country both overseas and here at home, we have developed an intimate understanding of the threats to our nation's security and economic vitality posed by overreliance on foreign oil. For that reason, we support the vision of your America First Energy Plan¹ and agree that more can and should be done to develop all of our domestic energy resources, including renewable fuels like ethanol.

As part of your plan, we strongly encourage you to underscore the important role that American-made ethanol plays in reducing petroleum imports, lowering fuel costs for consumers, creating jobs in rural communities, and protecting our air and water.

Working and investing in the ethanol industry allows us to continue honoring our commitment to make America stronger and more independent. As men and women with a strong sense of patriotism and duty to country, we take great pride in knowing we work in an industry that improves our nation's energy security, economic vitality, and environmental quality each and every day. We're also proud that our industry has created tens of thousands of quality jobs in small towns and rural communities across the nation, allowing us to share with our families a way of life that is central to American values and our cultural identity.

The ethanol industry has been a key catalyst of the American energy boom over the past decade, and is poised for even larger contributions in the future. Our industry has grown from 81 plants producing 255,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2005 to 213 plants producing more than 1 million bpd currently. Cumulatively, we have added nearly 3.3 billion barrels of low-cost, high-octane liquid fuel to domestic supplies since 2005.

Rapid growth in U.S. ethanol production has helped curtail petroleum imports in recent years. Net imports of crude oil and petroleum products peaked at 12.5 million bpd in 2005 and have since fallen to 4.7 million bpd in 2015. Together with the American oil and gas industry, we have made great strides in reducing imports and improving domestic energy security.

But true energy independence has so far remained elusive. The United States continues to import approximately 3.5 million bpd from OPEC nations, meaning our economy sends roughly \$140 million each day—or \$500 per American household per year—to the OPEC cartel. As we have seen

¹ The White House. "An America First Energy Plan." <https://www.whitehouse.gov/america-first-energy>

in recent years, OPEC continues to assert its influence on economies around the world by manipulating oil prices. In 2015, the cartel flooded the global crude oil market, which resulted in a 12-year low for world oil prices, a decline in U.S. production, and economic hardship in leading oil and gas states. In late 2016, OPEC members agreed to slash output, sending world crude oil prices significantly higher.

As veterans, many of us have witnessed firsthand the dangers of our reliance on oil imports from hostile and unstable parts of the world. We share your belief that the United States can and must do more to insulate itself from the negative impacts associated with oil import dependence and OPEC manipulation. Your continued commitment to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and pledge to “end restrictions that keep higher blends of ethanol from being sold” are among the strategies that will help free our economy from the influence of OPEC oil ministers once and for all.²

Thus, we respectfully urge you to include a prominent role for ethanol and the RFS in your America First Energy Plan. We look forward to working with you to further advance the goals of greater energy security, accelerated job creation, lower fuel costs for American families, and cleaner air and water.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Abel
SGT, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Robert Baker
PO2, U.S. Navy
KAAPA Ethanol, LLC
Minden, NE

Dustin Barber
Cpl, U.S. Marine Corps
Western Plains Energy, LLC
Campus, KS

Michael J. Barnes
PO3, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

² McConnell, Anna. “Trump Expresses Support for RFS, Biofuel Industry.” Agriculture.com. Jan. 19, 2016.
http://www.agriculture.com/news/business/trump-expresses-supt-f-rfs-biofuel_5-ar51987

Jerry Barthel
MM3, U.S. Navy
Adkins Energy, LLC
Lena, IL

Tony Beam
PO1, U.S. Navy
KAAPA Ethanol, LLC
Minden, NE

Roger Berry
Sgt, U.S. Air Force
Nebraska Corn Board
Lincoln, NE

Walter Bicknase
SGT, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Aurora
Aurora, NE

Shane Bittner
CPO, U.S. Navy
KAAPA Ethanol Ravenna, LLC
Ravenna, NE

Charles Bolton
SGT, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Aurora
Aurora, NE

Paul Breckheimer
SPC, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Columbia
Boardman, OR

Tate Brown
Sgt, U.S. Air Force
Hankinson Renewable Energy, LLC
Hankinson, ND

Brian Bunch
SSgt, U.S. Air Force
Pacific Ethanol Columbia
Boardman, OR

Scott Burger
FN, U.S. Navy
Husker Ag, LLC
Plainview, NE

Lt. Col. Glenn A. Caldwell, Jr. (Retired)
U.S. Air Force
East Kansas Agri-Energy, LLC
Garnett, KS

SGT Matthew Carlson (Retired)
U.S. Army
Guardian Energy LLC
Janesville, MN

Thor Carpenter
Cpl, U.S. Marine Corps
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Dale V. Christensen
Sgt, U.S. Air Force
Glacial Lakes Energy
Watertown, SD

Scott Christian
SPC, U.S. Army National Guard
East Kansas Agri-Energy, LLC
Garnett, KS

Loren Claussen
SPC, U.S. Army
Husker Ag, LLC
Plainview, NE

Bruce G. Combs
SPC, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Mark E. Cook
MA2, U.S. Navy
Mid-Missouri Energy
Malta Bend, MO

Geoff Cooper
CPT, U.S. Army
Renewable Fuels Association
Ballwin, MO

Chuck Cunningham
SPC, U.S. Army National Guard
Hankinson Renewable Energy, LLC
Hankinson, ND

James Cunningham
DP3, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Aurora
Aurora, NE

James Brian Delaney
PO3, U.S. Navy
Commonwealth Agri-Energy, LLC
Hopkinsville, KY

Doug Eckerdt
SPC, U.S. Army Military Police
Pacific Ethanol Stockton
Stockton, CA

David R. Eis
PO3, U.S. Navy
Highwater Ethanol LLC
Wabasso, MN

Jeff Eliason
MMC, U.S. Navy
CHS, Inc.
Inver Grove Heights, MN

William S. Evans, Jr.
CPL, U. S. Army
Commonwealth Agri-Energy, LLC
Hopkinsville, KY

Shane Flairty
SGT, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Matthew W. Folmar
CPL, U.S. Army
Western Plains Energy, LLC
Campus, KS

Mike Gallaway
Sgt, U.S. Air Force
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Scott L. Gemmell
LT, U.S. Navy
Phibro Animal Health Corporation
St. Paul, MN

Charles M. Genzler
GSMC, U.S. Navy
Redfield Energy, LLC
Redfield, SD

Daniel F. Gianessi
SGT, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Frank J. Givens
GSMFN, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Columbia
Boardman, OR

Eric Glassmyer
SrA, U.S. Air Force
KAAPA Ethanol, LLC
Minden, NE

Jeff Goetzke
SGT, U.S. Army
CHS, Inc.
Inver Grove Heights, MN

John Goodman
SFC, U.S. Army
Mid-Missouri Energy
Malta Bend, MO

Andrew Grant
Cpl, U.S. Marine Corps
Adkins Energy, LLC
Lena, IL

Geoff Griffin
SPC, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Aurora
Aurora, NE

Daniel Guetterman
SSgt, U.S. Air Force
East Kansas Agri-Energy, LLC
Garnett, KS

Brandon Guppy
SrA, IL Air National Guard
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

James Hall
SSgt, SD Air National Guard
Husker Ag, LLC
Plainview, NE

William Hadt
SPC, U.S. Army
Guardian Energy LLC
Janesville, MN

Christopher Harford
SPC, SD U.S. Army National Guard
Redfield Energy, LLC
Redfield, SD

Scott E. Hicks
SSG, SD U.S. Army National Guard
Redfield Energy, LLC
Redfield, SD

Cody Holzmeister
PO3, U.S. Navy
Western Plains Energy, LLC
Campus, KS

Wayne Hongsermeier
PVT, U.S. Army Reserve
KAAPA Ethanol Ravenna, LLC
Ravenna, NE

James M. Houston
SPC, U.S. Army
E Energy Adams
Adams, NE

Eric Huber
Cpl, U.S. Marine Corps
Pacific Ethanol Stockton
Stockton, CA

Randy Hyatt
SGT, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Charlie Johnson
Cpl, U.S. Marine Corps
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Craig H. Johnson
Sgt, U.S. Air Force
Redfield Energy, LLC
Redfield, SD

Wade Kehler
SN, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Donn Kemp
SPC, U.S. Army
Guardian Energy Lima
Lima, OH

Daniel E. Kemper
Cpl, U.S. Marine Corps
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Duane Klocke
SGT, U.S. Army
Al-Corn Clean Fuel
Hayfield, MN

Larry R. Knudsen
SPC, U.S. Army
Little Sioux Corn Processors
Marcus, IA

Thomas Kutch
B2, U.S. Navy
Guardian Energy LLC
Janesville, MN

Michael Laddusaw
SSG, U.S. Army
Hankinson Renewable Energy, LLC
Hankinson, ND

Evan Ladewig
PO3, U.S. Navy
East Kansas Agri-Energy, LLC
Garnett, KS

TSgt Quentin R. Larson (Retired)
U.S. Air Force
Hankinson Renewable Energy, LLC
Hankinson, ND

SGT Timothy Leichtenberg (Retired)
U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Anthony Leiding
CPT, U.S. Army
Trenton Agri Products LLC
Trenton, NE

Donald Lessor
SPC, U.S. Army
Didion Ethanol
Cambria, WI

Toby Long
Sgt, U.S. Army
East Kansas Agri-Energy LLC
Garnett, KS

Danny Lopez
Cpl, U.S. Marine Corps
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Thomas Henry Lynch
PFC, U.S. Marine Corps
Siouxland Ethanol, LLC
Jackson, NE

MMCS Daniel Mainwaring (Retired)
U.S. Navy
KAAPA Ethanol, LLC
Minden, NE

Neil Maunu
LTC, U.S. Army National Guard
Tidewater Barge Lines
Vancouver, WA

Zachary L. McCarl
Cpl, U.S. Marine Corps
Pacific Ethanol Columbia
Boardman, OR

Larry McDonald
PO3, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Steven McElroy
SPC, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Columbia
Boardman, OR

Bradley Metz
SSgt, U.S. Air Force
KAAPA Ethanol Ravenna, LLC
Ravenna, NE

Curtis Meyer
SGT, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Kevin D. Meyer
SGT, U.S. Army National Guard
E-Energy Adams
Adams, NE

LCDR Robert Miller (Retired)
U.S. Navy
BetaTec Hop Products
Vero Beach, FL

Brian Muth
PO2, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Matt Nagy
SGT, U.S. Army
National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center
Edwardsville, IL

Mike Norris
SPC, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

MSG Dennis Oberhauser (Retired)
U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Aurora
Aurora, NE

Jeff Oestmann
SSgt, U.S. Marine Corps
East Kansas Agri-Energy, LLC
Garnett, KS

Michael J. Olsen
PO2, U.S. Navy
Badger State Ethanol
Monroe, WI

Stephen Ovsak
Sgt, U.S. Marine Corps
PO2, U.S. Navy
Hankinson Renewable Energy, LLC
Hankinson, ND

Richard Parm
PO3, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Justin Peters
SFC, U.S. Army Reserve
KAAPA Ethanol Ravenna, LLC
Ravenna, NE

Adam Pruitt
PFC, U.S. Marine Corps
Pacific Ethanol Aurora
Aurora, NE

William Reeder
SPC, U.S. Army
East Kansas Agri-Energy LLC
Garnett, KS

Paul Richins
Sgt, U.S. Marine Corps
Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley
Burley, ID

Bennett Roberson
SGT, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Columbia
Boardman, OR

Sean Roemen
SPC, U.S. Army
Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company
Benson, MN

Ryan Rose
SPC, U.S. Army Reserve
KAAPA Ethanol Ravenna, LLC
Ravenna, NE

MSgt Benjamin Ross (Retired)
U.S. Air Force
Building Illinois Bioeconomy Project
Southeastern Illinois College
Harrisburg, IL

Christopher Rutherford
AME2 (EAWS), U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Aurora
Aurora, NE

Chris Scott
Sgt, IL Air National Guard
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

David Shaffer
Cpl, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
Guardian Energy Lima
Lima, OH

Randy Storer
PO1, U.S. Navy
Guardian Energy Lima
Lima, OH

CPO Ramon Stripling (Retired)
U.S. Navy
Biofuels Project Coordinator, Dallas County School District
Dallas, TX

Robert Taylor
ET1 SS/DV, U.S. Navy.
East Kansas Agri-Energy LLC
Garnett, KS

Robert Taylor
PO1, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

SSG Shawn M. Taylor (Retired)
U.S. Army
Didion Ethanol
Cambria, WI

Calvin J. Temaat
MM1, U.S. Navy
Western Plains Energy, LLC
Campus, KS

TSgt Philip H. Thomson (Retired)
U.S. Air Force
Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company
Benson, MN

Larry Ties
SPC, U.S. Army
KAAPA Ethanol, LLC
Minden, NE

Christopher Torre
OS1, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Stockton
Stockton, CA

Mike Tumilty
PO3, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Angela G. Turck
SGT, U.S. Army National Guard
Redfield Energy, LLC
Redfield, SD

MAJ John M. Urbanchuk (Retired)
U.S. Army
ABF Economics LLP
Doylestown, PA

Steven J. Vander Griend
Sgt, U.S. Marine Corps
ICM Inc. & Urban Air Initiative
Colwich, KS

John Walker
SrA, U.S. Air Force
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Kenneth Wandrie
SPC, U.S. Army
Guardian Energy LLC
Janesville, MN

Justin Westphal
SGT, U.S. Army National Guard
Hankinson Renewable Energy, LLC
Hankinson, ND

Robert White
SGT, U.S. Army
Renewable Fuels Association
Kansas City, KS

Seaborn H. Wilbanks
AN, U.S. Navy
Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley
Burley, ID

Mike Williams
SPC, U.S. Army
Pacific Ethanol Pekin
Pekin, IL

Tony Windsor
TM3, U.S. Navy
Show Me Ethanol, LLC
Carrollton, MO

Mark Winter
PFC, U.S. Army
East Kansas Agri-Energy, LLC
Garnett, KS

Brian Wolf
SGT, U.S. Army and U.S. Army National Guard
Western Plains Energy, LLC
Campus, KS

Walter H. Wulf, Jr.
CPT, U.S. Army
East Kansas Agri-Energy, LLC
Garnett, KS