



Terry E. Branstad
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Kim Reynolds
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December 12, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear President Obama, Administrator McCarthy, and Secretary Vilsack:

As elected officials from a leading agricultural and biofuels state, we write to express our strong opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to reduce renewable fuel volume obligations and weaken the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), and we request further opportunities for citizens from rural America to inform your decisions. Biofuels have diversified America's energy portfolio, strengthened our national security by reducing reliance on foreign oil, reduced transportation fuel emissions, given consumers lower cost options, and energized rural America by increasing family farm incomes and creating high-skilled, rewarding careers.

The EPA recently held a field hearing in Crystal City, Virginia, to discuss proposed RFS volume obligations. Throughout the day, the EPA heard from agricultural leaders, public officials, and private citizens, including many individuals from rural America. However, many more farmers, business leaders, and interested citizens wanted to participate in the hearing, but were unable to make the trip to Washington, DC, on such short notice. A reduction in the RFS will disproportionately affect rural America and will leave thousands unemployed. Weakening the RFS would increase prices at the pump and negatively impact air quality across the country. We believe the hard-working men and women in Iowa and across the Midwest deserve the opportunity to make the case at a hearing in the Heartland.

We request that the EPA, in conjunction with the White House Rural Council, hold a field hearing in the State of Iowa to enable Iowans and other Midwesterners to testify to the benefits of the RFS and provide Federal leaders with additional data to inform your decisions. We invite you to join the hearings and to join us in visiting at least one biofuel facility, which

will enable you to see firsthand the many benefits of biofuels and the broad importance of a robust RFS.

Iowans, Midwesterners, and American consumers deserve an honest debate that is not clouded by the politics of Washington, DC.

We hope to welcome you to Iowa soon.

Sincerely,



Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa



Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor of Iowa



Bill Northey
Secretary, Iowa Department
of Agriculture & Land Stewardship



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Tom Latham
United States Congressman



Steve King
United States Congressman



Bruce Braley
United States Congressman



Dave Loebsack
United States Congressman