

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 21, 2016

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

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We write in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently proposed Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) for biomass-based diesel (biodiesel) for calendar year 2018. The volume as proposed for biodiesel does not meet actual production capacity in the United States. As a result, we urge you to increase these volumes in the final rule.

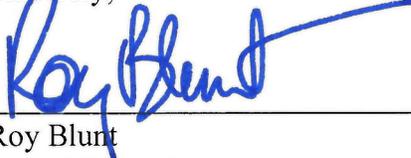
Biodiesel is the first EPA-designated advanced biofuel under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) to reach commercial scale production nationwide. The biodiesel industry has met RFS criteria for growth, exceeding the goals that Congress envisioned when it created the RFS with bipartisan support in 2005 and supporting over 47,000 jobs. To date, biodiesel and renewable diesel have delivered the majority of the advanced biofuels under the RFS. We believe it is clear that these fuels offer the best opportunity for growth in the near future.

The EPA's 2018 proposal calls for just 100 million gallons in growth over the 2017 volume. This does not capture the full potential of the biodiesel and renewable diesel industries in our states and should be strengthened to at least 2.5 billion gallons, an increase of 400 million gallons.

We have made great progress through the RFS in diversifying our nation's fuel supply while creating and sustaining jobs, generating tax revenues, and improving energy security. We urge you to continue to support higher RVOs for biodiesel to encourage additional development and use of this fuel.

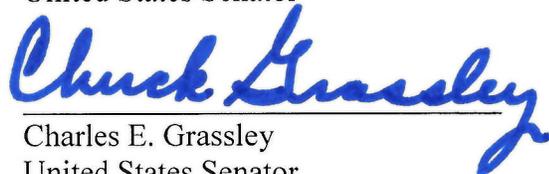
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Roy Blunt

United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley

United States Senator



Patty Murray

United States Senator

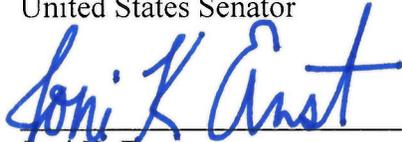


Heidi Heitkamp

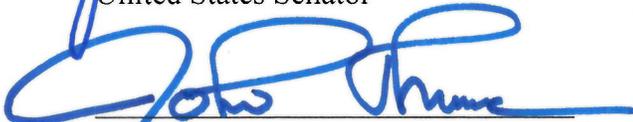
United States Senator



Mark Kirk
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



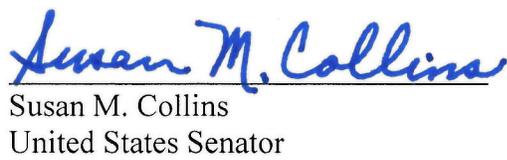
Pat Roberts
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



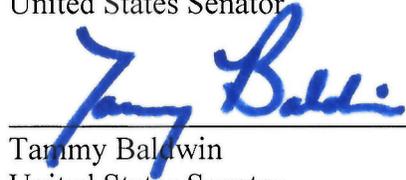
John Hoeven
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



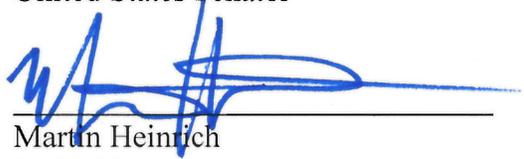
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



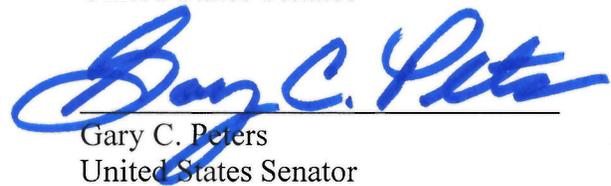
Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



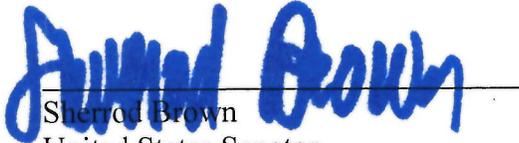
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



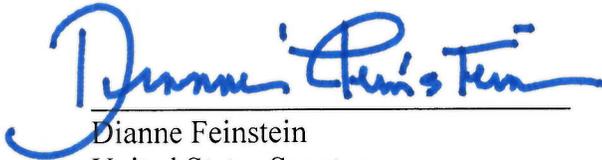
Jack Reed
United States Senator



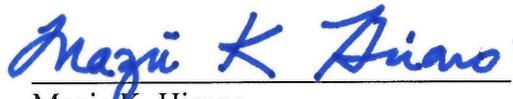
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



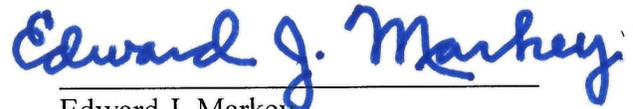
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



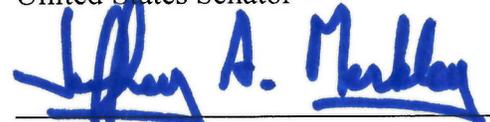
Jerry Moran
United States Senator



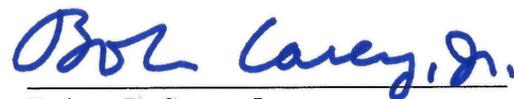
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



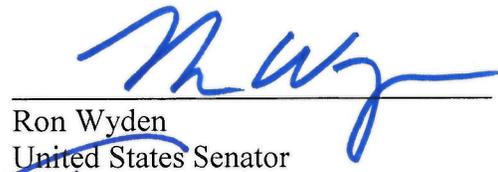
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



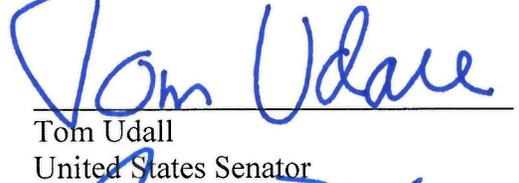
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



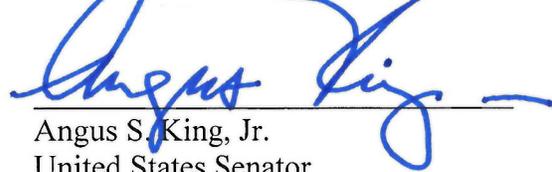
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



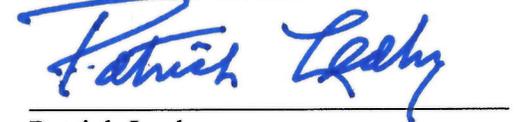
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



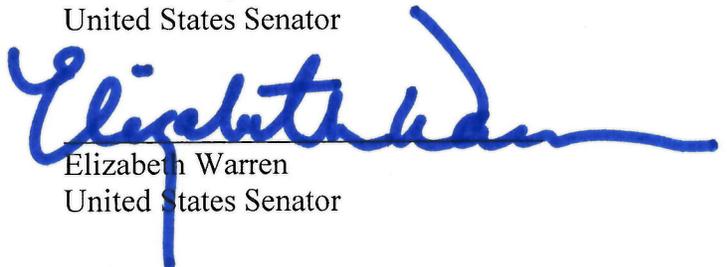
Tom Udall
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator