



May 16, 2023

Administrator Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Director Regan,

As Agriculture Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors in the United States, we write to you with our concerns over the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) proposed Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) “Set” rule that supports blending volumes for 2023 through 2025. Since its inception, the RFS has uplifted the agriculture economy and rural communities across the U.S. and has stimulated critical growth in biofuel markets, diversifying our available supply of critical liquid transportation fuels that drive our nation’s economic success. However, EPA’s proposed rule fails to consider the key investments that our farmers and biofuel producers have made in recent years and ignores the historic level of biofuel and feedstock processing capacity expansion that is planned and underway, thereby restricting the opportunity for clean, homegrown biofuels to meet our nation’s energy independence and carbon reduction goals.

Specifically, we are deeply concerned with the proposed volumes in the biomass-based diesel (BBD) category of the RFS. The EPA vastly missed the mark and did not accurately consider the market realities and conditions with these volumes in its proposed rule. Over the past few years, industry has put billions of dollars of near-term investments into the market to increase crush capacity for vegetable oils, and the U.S. is expecting to see more than five billion gallons of renewable diesel come online by 2025. Furthermore, EPA’s proposed BBD volumes are significantly lower than current production and usage levels of biodiesel and renewable diesel and, if finalized, will hurt future advancements in feedstock and biofuel production as well as reduce supply in the diesel market.

Additionally, while the conventional biofuel levels in the proposed rule appear to be sufficient in and of themselves, we have great concern over the potential cannibalization that could occur in this category due to the woefully inadequate BBD levels. Higher ethanol blends such as E15 and E85 provide consumer savings at the pump and emission reductions for the air, and the RFS should be harnessed to accelerate – not hinder – the use and availability of these homegrown, lower carbon fuel choices.

We strongly encourage the Agency in its final rule to increase the proposed volumes for BBD – along with corresponding increases to the total advanced biofuel and total renewable fuel obligation levels – to account for the significant growth in investments and production capacity in the renewable diesel and biodiesel space. Without considering the increases in newly available feedstocks, crush capacity and biofuel production, the EPA will be hurting investments and impacting supply of critical fuels in the diesel market. Biofuels offer the most immediate and affordable path to both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing U.S. energy security, and it is vital that the final RFS volumes for 2023 through 2025 send a strong signal for increased production and consumption of homegrown ethanol, biodiesel and renewable diesel throughout the United States.

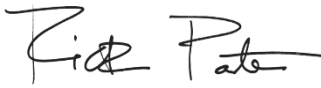
Respectfully,



Mike Naig  
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture



Mike Strain, DVM  
Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry



Rick Pate  
Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries



Tyler Harper  
Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture



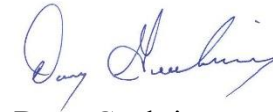
Ryan Quarles  
Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture



Andy Gipson  
Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce



Steve Troxler  
North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture



Doug Goehring  
North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture



Hugh Weathers  
South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture



Sid Miller  
Texas Commissioner of Agriculture



Kent Leonhardt  
West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture