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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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April 14, 2015

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

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

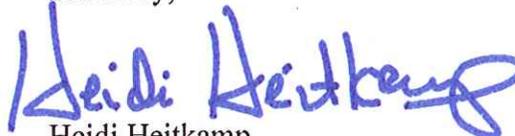
I write to convey my strong disappointment with the continued delay in establishing renewable volume obligations (RVOs) under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), particularly for biodiesel. I urge you to accelerate the process to finalize a rule and end the uncertainty biodiesel producers and the farmers who supply them face.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently announced timeline for proposing and finalizing RVOs is welcomed progress, but the proposed timeline represents a delay of almost two years since the EPA's original 2014 RVO proposal. Should the EPA stick to its newly proposed timeline to finalize RVOs, it will be almost a full three years late in setting biodiesel volumes. This delay has caused serious harm to biodiesel producers—forcing plants around the country to shut down or slow production.

Since the enactment of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which established volume obligations for biomass-based diesel, we have seen rapid development of commercial-scale biodiesel production nationwide with plants in almost every state supporting 62,200 jobs. Like many industries, the biodiesel industry requires certainty in order to plan for production in the next year. As such, the Administration risks causing further disinvestment and lost jobs if these decisions are not made in a more timely manner.

Given the unique nature of biodiesel volumes under the RFS, I urge you to accelerate the process for biodiesel RVOs and finalize a rule to help get biodiesel production back on schedule. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate

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