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

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

Mark Kirk
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

John Thune
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Pat Roberts
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Al Franken
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
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