Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

You hold a very important role as the acting Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is our expectation you will reinforce the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and bolster our nation's energy security. We're encouraged by your statement at your confirmation hearing last year where you said, "The RFS is the law of the land. I fully support the program." Iowa farmers deserve nothing less.

Renewable fuels are critical to achieving energy independence in the United States and play an important role in Iowa's economy. We remain concerned about the demand destruction of 2.25 billion gallons due to the unprecedented number of small refinery "hardship" waivers granted in 2016 and 2017. The recently released 2019 proposed rule indicates there will be no accounting moving forward of gallons that might be waived under the small refinery waivers in order to maintain the statutory Renewable Volume Obligation. A reduction in demand for renewable fuels pushes commodity prices even lower and farmers are already facing low commodity prices. We strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed rule and work to ensure that the final rule is structured to ensure that any waivers granted do not reduce the overall Renewable Volume Obligation.

President Trump directed the EPA to allow for the sale of E-15 year round but unfortunately this hasn't come to fruition. This is particularly frustrating given the damaging impact that previously granted waivers have already had on RIN prices and renewable fuel demand. As Iowa corn farmers are anxiously awaiting their 2018 crop, a Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver would help grow demand and improve the markets. Since its creation, the RFS has helped us reduce our dependency on foreign oil, promoted cleaner air, created good-paying jobs, given consumers cheaper fuel, and spurred economic growth in our rural communities.

Across Iowa, cooperatives and renewable fuel plants dot the landscape. We invite you to visit Iowa and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

David Young
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

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Steve King
Member of Congress

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