



November 10, 2015

**President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500**

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the 200,000 family farmer and rancher members of the National Farmers Union (NFU) in 33 states, I am writing to reiterate our belief, and the belief of many farm and rural organizations, that the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has been an unqualified success since its passage in 2005, boosting incomes for family farmers, creating new and well-paying jobs in rural America, helping to reduce this nation's dependence on foreign oil and making important strides in mitigating climate change through the use of biofuels.

When the RFS was passed by a majority of Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush, it laid out a pathway with clear renewable fuel volume targets reaching 36 billion gallons by 2022. Since its passage, the RFS has saved American consumers more than \$100 billion at the fuel pump and has reduced our dependence on foreign fossil fuels by billions of gallons annually.

The RFS has also been an enormous boon to American agriculture, injecting billions of dollars into the farm economy by bolstering commodity prices and creating a renaissance in rural areas of our nation that have not seen economic growth for years. With firm RFS targets in place, ethanol plants have started up across the countryside, and investors have earmarked monies for second-generation biofuel development.

Additionally, the RFS has helped family farmers and the nation make tangible steps toward mitigating our impact on climate change by driving the U.S. to make real reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Corn ethanol reduces GHG emissions by 34 percent, and more substantial gains can be made through new types of biofuels.

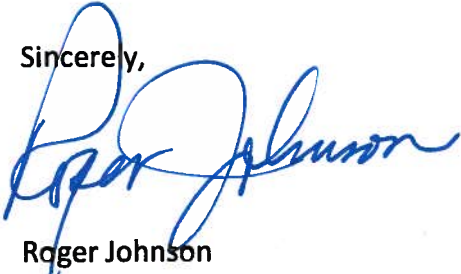
In short, the RFS is working exactly as planned.

Unfortunately, most popular public policies face a small but vocal group of critics, and the RFS is no different. Earlier this month, a minority of House members sent a letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) curb the growth of this promising industry by backing off volume targets set forth in the statute.

Subsequent news reports have revealed that the letter earlier sent to the EPA by these members of Congress was in fact drafted by a lobbyist for the petroleum industry.

Wavering from our commitment to the RFS would be a grave mistake for both America's family farmers and this nation as a whole. We deeply appreciate your administration's demonstrated commitment to mitigating climate change for the sake of domestic and global food security among other things. On behalf of America's family farmers, we ask you to stay the course on the RFS, maintaining your commitment to biofuels and to fully implementing the statutory volume targets laid out in the law.

Sincerely,



Roger Johnson
President, National Farmers Union

cc: Administrator Gina McCarthy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency