

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 11, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

We appreciate your commitment to the success of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), including your recent decision to uphold the 2023 standards set last June. As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) develops standards for 2026, we encourage you to raise RFS volumes for biomass-based diesel and advanced biofuels to levels that are consistent with production and availability, while ensuring an equivalent increase in total volumes to preserve demand across all categories of biofuels.

America's environmental and energy security depend on the widespread production, availability, and use of biofuels. Biofuels play a particularly critical role in emissions reduction for heavy-duty transportation — including aviation, shipping, rail, and trucking — while opening up economic opportunities for American farmers. A strong RFS and broad availability of homegrown agricultural feedstocks bolster the domestic fuel supply and are critical for ensuring we keep up the progress we have made in decarbonizing our roads, seas, railways, and skies.

As you know, the RFS requires biomass-based diesel and other advanced biofuels to reduce emissions by at least 50 percent. In practice, biomass-based diesel reduces lifecycle carbon emissions by more than 70 percent on average. Increased production and availability of renewable fuel would provide a direct benefit to consumers at the pump. It would also support farm sector income, which USDA is projecting to fall while the input costs of producing food, fuel and other agricultural products increase.

The RFS volumes set by EPA last June for 2023-2025 are the highest in history. However, new evidence shows that volumes need to be set significantly higher across the board to account for increased production capacity for biomass-based diesel and advanced biofuels. As the Energy Information Administration noted last fall, "The Renewable Volume Obligations for biomass-based diesel and advanced biofuel were set significantly lower than production trends." Since the volumes were set last summer, RIN values have decreased by an average of 66 percent, sending a discouraging market signal to farmers, feedstock producers, biofuel producers, blenders and investors.

Domestic fuel production facilities are closing as a result, putting Americans out of work and disrupting local economies. The negative signal to renewable fuel producers threatens billions of dollars of investment in feedstock and fuel production, including for Sustainable Aviation Fuel.

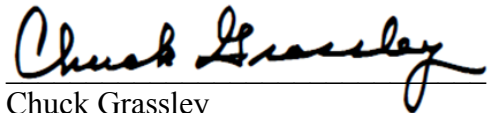
Without EPA action, America will miss out on the energy benefits and carbon reductions delivered by advanced biofuels.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you as the 2026 standards are developed to make biofuel volumes consistent with production and availability. This action will ensure an equivalent increase in total volumes to preserve demand across all categories of biofuels.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator



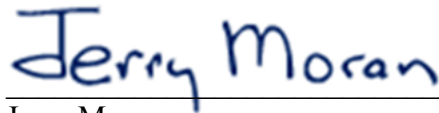
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United States Senator



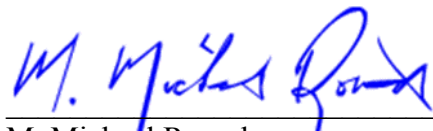
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



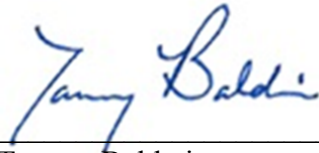
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Tina Smith
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