

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We are writing regarding the proposed 2018 Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), as noted in the Federal Register as EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0091. Rather than support continued growth in the lowest carbon types of biofuels under the statute, your proposal reduces the blending target for cellulosic biofuels and calls for zero growth in the biodiesel. This proposal will curtail investment in innovation and have an adverse impact on our country. It will particularly affect communities of color and urban areas that already face air pollution issues and higher costs of living, especially in regard to gasoline prices. We urge you to reverse course in the final rule and correct these deficiencies in the cellulosic and biodiesel sectors.

Cellulosic and advanced biofuels are one of the greatest energy innovations of the decade. Since 2007, cellulosic biofuels have gone from non-existent to commercial scale, largely with private investment driven by the policy certainty of the RFS. These innovations in chemistry, engineering, enzyme technology, and feedstock collection have brought this technology from the drawing board to the American consumer, opening up new market opportunities for innovators across America. We cannot afford to stall this economic growth and limit its expansion to urban areas outside of the farm belt by going backwards on the RFS and slowing investment in this sector.

Biofuels reduce air pollution by cutting particulate matter, ozone, and greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously preventing the need for cancer-causing additives like benzene in gasoline. Cellulosic ethanol is the lowest carbon biofuel in the world today, with gallons in today's marketplace reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 90% on a life cycle basis. Urban areas and communities of color are disproportionately affected by air pollution, and will withstand the worst of the effects of your proposed rule if it is finalized. In addition, biofuels are less expensive compared to gasoline, saving consumers money each time they visit the pump.

This is critical for our constituents whom often spend a larger portion of their annual income on fuel costs.

We urge you to change course on the 2018 RVO and increase the volumes for cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel.

Sincerely,




Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



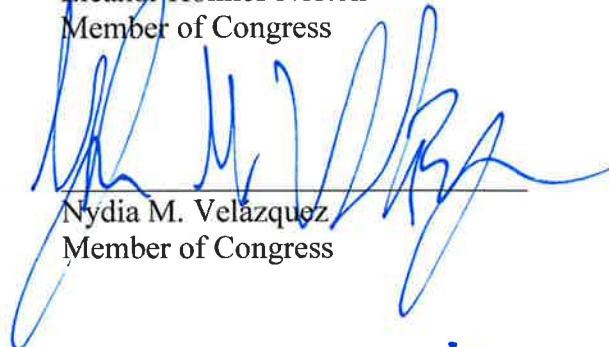
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velazquez
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan

Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez

Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

Ruben J. Kihuen

Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

Juan C. Vargas

Juan C. Vargas
Member of Congress

Adriano Espallat

Adriano Espallat
Member of Congress