

June 15, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
United States Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As business leaders and employers, we understand that a strong agricultural sector is vital to revitalizing broad economic growth across America's heartland. That is why we would like to offer our support for your efforts to expand market opportunities for American farmers and the homegrown biofuels produced from U.S. crops.

As you know, more than 200 biofuel plants across the heartland support hundreds of thousands of jobs. These rural manufacturing centers represent just one segment of a supply chain that extends from equipment makers and transportation providers to scientists and gas station operators. But with farm income falling from \$123.8 billion in 2013 to \$59.5 billion in 2018, those at the heart of this economic engine are less able to invest in fertilizer, agricultural equipment, and other resources -- a trend that could threaten new business opportunities well beyond farm communities.

New markets for American-made biofuels promise to rejuvenate growth, but long-standing policies designed to promote cleaner, more cost-effective options at the fuel pump have been under siege by special interests in Washington. We ask that you stand firm against these attacks and use every tool available to prevent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt from adopting regulatory schemes that would further undercut demand for biofuels and their energy-rich farm feedstocks.

We also urge you to press the EPA for immediate action on the president's plan to revitalize growth in homegrown energy. On May 8, the White House announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be working with the EPA to address outdated regulatory barriers that limit the sales of E15, a motor fuel blended with 15 percent ethanol. This long-overdue fix will provide consumers with additional American-made, low-cost options at the pump.

It also represents a major step toward restoring market certainty for U.S. producers. Lifting these needless regulations will clear a path toward growth that could help boost job creation in rural communities. Rural America has waited long enough for the freedom to market higher blends of homegrown energy.

Again, thank you for your commitment to rural prosperity. Employers across the heartland are counting on you to stand up for the farm economy and demand that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt forge ahead, without delay, on the president's directive to expand sales opportunities for E15 and U.S. biofuels.

Sincerely,

AGRA Industries - Tim Gruling, Sales Manager (Wisconsin)
American Arab Chamber of Commerce (Michigan)
Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce (Michigan)
Authorized Grain Service, LLC - Katie Levens, Owner (Ohio)
Bank Midwest - Gary Weckwerth, Mortgage Specialist (South Dakota)
Bell Auto Supply - Chris Wrasman, Manager (Ohio)
The Law Firm of Benjamin L. Yousef, P.C. - Ben Yousef, CEO (Missouri)
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce (Minnesota)
Bona Bros. Minnoco - Brian Bona, Owner (Minnesota)
Bosselman Enterprises - Randy L. Gard, COO (Nebraska)
Centerville Minnoco - Chad Buechler, Owner (Minnesota)
Christensen Well - Cody, Carly, Jimmy & Casey Christensen, Owners (Nebraska)
Citizens State Bank - Steven R. Ausdemore, President (Nebraska)
Connealy Insurance - Janis M. Connealy, Owner (Nebraska)
Dinkel's - Larry, John B & John M. Dinkel, Owners (Nebraska)
Doximity Pharmacies - David Taffe, Owner (South Dakota)
Doximity Pharmacies - Adam Waage, Owner (South Dakota)
East Michigan District Export Council (Michigan)
Fast Break Corner Marketing - Kathy Hansmann, Owner (Minnesota)
George's Garage - George Schroeder, Owner (Ohio)
Glandorf Lumber Company - Kurt Utrup, Manager (Ohio)
Glenn's 1-Stop - Glenn & Rose Ann Seutter, Owners (Minnesota)
Gordie's Towing & Repair - Jeff Peterson, Owner (Minnesota)
Gramsie Corner Mart - Brian Larson, Owner (Minnesota)
Hadley Lane Corporation (DBA) Marion Industrial Electrical Supply - G. Eric Sierra, President & CEO (Ohio)
Hennen's Auto Service - Joel & Dana Hennen, Owners (Minnesota)
Highland Service Station - Sean Kiger, Owner (Minnesota)
Hwy. 10 Minnoco - Jerry Charmoli, Owner (Minnesota)
Jeff's Little Store - Jeff Bagniewski, Owner (Minnesota)
Jetz Convenience Stores - Bob O'Connor, President (Wisconsin)
Kaposia Convenience Center - Roger Green, Owner (Minnesota)
Kirkwood Des Peres Area Chamber of Commerce (Missouri)
Knox Co. Farmers Mutual Ins. Co - Richard Eisenhauer, President (Nebraska)
Knueve & Sons - Mike Knueve, Owner (Ohio)
Kohls Supermarket - Mark Kohls, Owner (Ohio)
Langhals Cleaning - Jennifer Langhals, Owner (Ohio)
Marion CANDO! - Gus Comstock, Director (Ohio)

Marshall Cretin Auto - Steve Anderson, Owner (Minnesota)
Matheson Tri-Gas - Mitchell Neulich, Owner (South Dakota)
Midwest Labs - Brent Pohlman, President (Nebraska)
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce (Minnesota)
Minnesota Service Station & Convenience Store Association (Minnesota)
Minnetonka Minnoco & U-Haul - Margaret & Michael Bauer, Owners (Minnesota)
Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce (Minnesota)
Northland Minnoco - Kathy Hansmann, Owner (Minnesota)
Physician Assistant Specialist - Ryanne Waage (South Dakota)
Ottawa Tire and Service Center - Dan Rieman, Manager (Ohio)
Pendler Implement Co. - Russ & Reed Allen, Owners (Nebraska)
Pit Stop Auto Center - Dave Rollins, Owner (Minnesota)
Precision Laser and Forming - Jeff Lammers, Head Engineer (Ohio)
Quality Welding, Inc. - Angela Health, Operations Manager (Ohio)
Quality Welding, Inc. - Charles Tinnel, President & CEO (Ohio)
Reeds 4th Avenue Minnoco - Rick & Cheri Webber, Owner (Minnesota)
Rod's Country Corner - Mark & Diane Johnson, Owner (Minnesota)
Rosie's Market - Kurt Hansen, Owner (Minnesota)
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce - Bob Van Deventer, President & CEO (Michigan)
SBI General & Mechanical - Jerald & Austen Stewart, Owners (Nebraska)
Schnipke Inn - Margaret Schnipke, Owner (Ohio)
Schwan Financial Group - John Schwan, CEO (South Dakota)
Schwan Financial Group - Kevin Schwan, Director Client Relations (South Dakota)
Schwan Financial Group - Kyle Schwan, Portfolio Manager (South Dakota)
Schwan Financial Group - Kory Schwan, Management Division (South Dakota)
Seal Foam Insulation & Construction - Neil Miller, Owner (Minnesota)
Settje Agri-Services & Engineering Inc. - Dean Settje, Owner (Nebraska)
Smith Schafer Davis Gaertig, LLC - Robert M. Schafer, Attorney (Nebraska)
Smokin' B's - Cher Barnes, Co-Owner (Ohio)
TDG Solutions, LLC - Andy Limbaugh (Missouri)
Tiscornia Enterprises - Jay VanLuven, CEO (Missouri)
Tobasi Stop & Xpress Stop - Abdalla Tobasi, Owner (Minnesota)
Tobies Station - Chris Hickie, Owner (Minnesota)
Workman Communications - Craig Workman, Ceo (Missouri)
Youngstedt's Minnoco - Steven Youngstedt, Owner (Minnesota)
Zahl-Petroleum Maintenance Co. - Brian Larson, Owner (Minnesota)

cc: President Trump, Administrator Pruitt