

August 26, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to request that you call upon the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to honor your commitment to American biofuels and rural prosperity. The future of our industry and the livelihoods of millions of biofuel workers and farmers are in your hands.

We deeply appreciate that this White House fought for rural America by lifting outdated regulations on E15; thank you. But, the EPA's actions threaten to undo your good work. Over the last three years, the EPA has abused the small refinery exemption (SRE) process and issued 85 SREs, including handouts to some of the world's largest oil companies. Each exemption erodes the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), cutting biofuels from the market and eliminating the incentive to offer lower-cost options at the fuel pump, including the E15 blends you made possible year-round.

Already, these special exemptions have destroyed billions of gallons of U.S. biofuel demand. Many plants have idled production or shut their doors, and annual U.S. ethanol consumption fell for the first time in two decades. Right now, hundreds of millions of gallons of production remain offline, with plants impacted in Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio, Florida, Virginia, Texas, Missouri, Georgia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

Each time a plant idles production, farmers are notified that biofuel producers can no longer accept grain deliveries, and the impact has been devastating for communities already on the edge. Farm income is now down by half since the start of this year alone, according to the [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#). Without your support, this harvest could be the last for many families.

Every new exemption is a threat to hundreds of thousands of jobs across the heartland. Make no mistake, the rural manufacturing that keeps our communities strong could soon vanish if unelected bureaucrats at the EPA continue to eliminate the market for biofuels. America would no longer be the world's top producer and exporter of ethanol.

Meanwhile, oil companies enjoyed their most profitable year since 2013, according to the Department of Energy. Rural workers and farmers can no longer pay the price for handouts to oil giants like Exxon and Chevron.

We appreciate you acknowledging our concerns [and vowing](#) "to support our ethanol industry and to fight for the American farmer like no president has ever fought before." Unfortunately, the time to address this crisis is running out, and the EPA has turned a deaf ear to rural families. The

agency is even considering a rule that would freeze growth and block efforts to repair the damage done by SREs.

Our industry has long been a pillar of strength in farm communities, where American families are looking to the White House for leadership, but the EPA is ravaging the rural economy in your name. Only you can turn it around, and we offer whatever support we can to make it happen.

Sincerely,

Rick Schwarck, Absolute Energy (St. Ansgar, IA)
Neal Kemmet, Ace Ethanol LLC (Stanley, WI)
Ray Baker, Adkins Energy (Lena, IL)
Rich Peterson, Advanced Bio Energy-Aberdeen, LLC (Aberdeen, SD)
Rich Peterson, Advanced Bio Energy-Huron, LLC (Huron, SD)
Ray Bradbury, Archer Daniels Midland Co. – Decatur (Decatur, IL)
Erik Huschitt, Badgerstate Ethanol (Monroe, WI)
Brian Kieffer, Big River Resources Boyceville, LLC (Boyceville, WI)
Jim Leiting, Big River Resources Galva, LLC (Galva, IL)
Ray Defenbaugh, Big River Resources West Burlington, LLC (West Burlington, IA)
Terry Manchester, Big River United Energy, LLC (Dyersville, IA)
Jeff Zueger, Blue Flint Ethanol (Underwood, ND)
Ted Free, Bridgeport Ethanol (Bridgeport, NE)
Eric Osmon, Bushmills Ethanol (Atwater, MN)
Mitch Miller, Carbon Green Bioenergy, LLC (Lake Odessa, MI)
Jeff Painter, Cardinal Energy (Union City, IN)
Dusty Turner, Conestoga Energy Partners, LLC - Arkalon Energy (Liberal, KS)
Fred Raynor, Conestoga Energy Partners, LLC - Bonanza (Liberal, KS)
Tom Willis, Conestoga Energy Partners, LLC - Diamond Ethanol (Liberal, KS)
Brad Davis, Corn Lp (Goldfield, IA)
Adam Dunlop, Dakota Spirit AgEnergy LLC (Spiritwood, ND)
Mick Miller, Denco II (Morris, MN)
Neal Kemmet, Fox River Valley Ethanol LLC (Oshkosh, WI)
Dan Sanders Jr, Front Range Energy (Windsor, CO)
Jim Seurer, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC (Watertown, SD)
Jim Seurer, Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC - Mina (Mina, SD)
Dave Sovereign, Golden Grain Energy, LLC (Mason City, IA)
Gerod Camp, Green Plains - Atkinson LLC (Atkinson, NE)
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Jason Murra, Green Plains - Hereford LLC (Hereford, TX)
John Hutto, Green Plains - Hopewell LLC (Hopewell, VA)
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Daniel K. Labhart, Green Plains - Mount Vernon LLC (Mount Vernon, IN)
Allan Dotson, Green Plains - Obion LLC (Rives, TN)
Les Glinsmann, Green Plains - Ord LLC (Ord, NE)
Anthony J. Hicks, Green Plains - Otter Tail LLC (Fergus Falls, MN)

Cory Scamman, Green Plains - Shenandoah LLC (Shenandoah, IA)
Tod Smith, Green Plains - Superior LLC (Superior, IA)
Albert Meister, Green Plains - Superior LLC (Superior, IA)
Chris Most, Green Plains - Wood River LLC (Wood River, NE)
Mitch Stuhr, Green Plains - York LLC (York, NE)
Dwayne Braun, ICM Biofuels, Inc. (St. Joseph, MO)
Gunner Greene, Iroquois Bio-Energy Company LLC (Rensselaer, IN)
Mike Chisam, Kansas Ethanol, LLC (Lyons, KS)
Eric Mosbey, Lincolnland Agri-Energy (Palestine, IL)
Jason Marquis, Marquis Energy - Wisconsin, LLC (Necedah, WI)
Mark Marquis, Marquis Energy, LLC (Hennepin, IL)
Robert Lundeen, Mid America Bio Energy (Madrid, NE)
Eric Meeuwsen, Nebraska Corn Processing (Cambridge, NE)
Dan Meeuwsen, Pennsylvania Grain Processing (Clearfield, PA)
Eamonn Byrne, Plymouth Energy (Merrill, IA)
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Derek Peine, Western Plains Energy (Oakley, KS)
Brian Steenhard, White Energy Hereford, LLC (Hereford, TX)
Grant Johanson, White Energy Plainview, LLC (Plainview, TX)
Dave Kramer, Yuma Ethanol (Sterling , CO)

cc: EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler
U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue