

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 16, 2021

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

Mr. Brian Deese
Director
National Economic Council
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Administrator Regan and Director Deese:

We write with significant concern about recent reports that the Administration is considering several options to exempt oil refiners of their obligations under the Clean Air Act's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). We support your efforts to address climate change, but we are concerned that rolling back the RFS obligation for refiners directly contradicts this work. Following through on the actions reportedly under discussion would directly undermine your commitment to address climate change and restore integrity to the RFS and we urge you to reject them.

The RFS was designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the vehicle transportation sector, diversify our fuel supply, strengthen our national security, and drive economic opportunity. When allowed to work as Congress intended, the RFS has delivered on these goals while serving as the economic engine behind a growing biobased manufacturing sector across rural America and a biofuel industry with a 100 percent U.S. supply chain and a higher union density than the national average.

The proposals identified in media reports as options under consideration by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have one thing in common: they all unjustifiably waive Clean Air Act compliance requirements for a small group of refiners that the EPA has repeatedly determined are not negatively impacted by the RFS. If adopted, greenhouse gas emissions will increase, our reliance on oil will increase, consumers will pay more at the pump, and the U.S. economy will be harmed.

Rather than exempting refiners of their obligations under the Clean Air Act, the Administration should provide additional certainty and stability to the renewable fuels marketplace that will create jobs, drive investment, and cut carbon emissions from the existing vehicle fleet. We encourage your Administration to swiftly issue a proposed rule for the 2021 and 2022 Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) with strong blending targets and respond to the 2017 Court remand in *Americans for Clean Energy, et al., v. Environmental Protection Agency* to reinstate 500 million gallons of blending requirements inappropriately waived from the 2016 blending targets.

As your Administration continues to push for meaningful and rapid climate action, biofuels can and should play an important role in decarbonizing vehicle emissions. Recent studies demonstrate that using ethanol in place of gasoline reduces greenhouse gas emissions by almost half while biodiesel cuts greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 74 percent. Exempting refiners of their obligations to blend biofuel would mean increased reliance on oil and more

carbon emissions – a result this country cannot afford if we are to meet our new commitment under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions by 50 – 52 percent by 2030.

We urge you to reject any actions under discussion to exempt oil refiners of their obligations under the RFS and uphold your commitment to combatting climate change and supporting our nation's farmers.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate



David Scott
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senate



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

CC: Ron Klain, White House Chief of Staff
Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor
Joseph Goffman, Acting Assistant Administrator
Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, EPA
Seth Harris, Senior Advisor Labor Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben Gallego". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ruben" and last name "Gallego" clearly distinguishable.

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress