

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 1, 2019

Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chairwoman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies  
2007 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable David P. Joyce  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chairwoman  
Energy and Water Development, and  
Related Agencies  
2186 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Water Development, and  
Related Agencies  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur, Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Members Simpson and Joyce:

We write today to express our concern regarding the small refinery waivers the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in consultation with the Department of Energy (DOE), continue to provide to certain oil refineries which would otherwise have to meet the requirements of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Their cumulative impacts are harming efforts to create jobs and keep our air clean across the country.

While the House of Representatives did not include report language addressing this issue in its versions of the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bills, the Senate did include report language. As a result, the final version of the bills continued the practice of encouraging the EPA and DOE to provide waivers to certain oil refineries. This report language was cited by then Acting Administrator Wheeler during his confirmation hearing before the Environment and Public Works Committee as a justification for vastly expanding the number and volume of waivers granted to certain oil refineries which would otherwise be required to meet the blending requirements of the RFS. To date, the aggregation of these waivers over the two years now total approximately 2.25 billion gallons of clean, renewable fuel that otherwise would have been part of the nation's transportation fuel fix, effectively rolling back blending levels to 2013.

The resulting impact of these waivers have contributed to higher gas prices for our constituents at the pump as well as elevated levels of harmful air and carbon pollution emissions. The 116th Congress should not stand idly by while the Environmental Protection Agency potentially issues any additional unnecessary waivers and should instead consider steps that could help unlock the full health and economic benefits of clean, renewable biofuels.

We urge you to ensure that report language which accompanies the final versions of the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations bills for the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy no longer encourages weakening the requirements and related benefits of the RFS.

Sincerely,



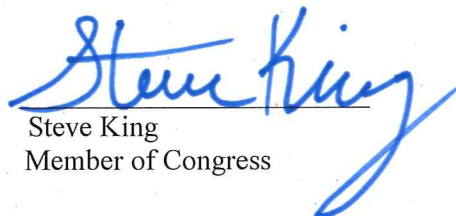
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



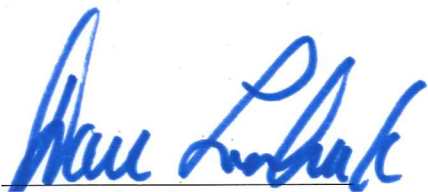
Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



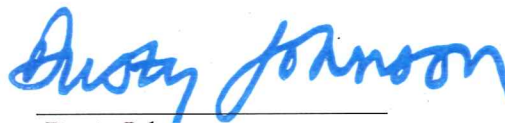
Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress



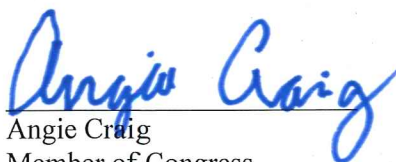
Steve King  
Member of Congress



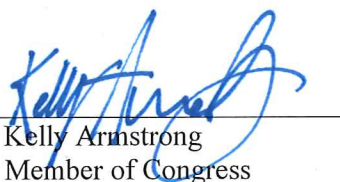
Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



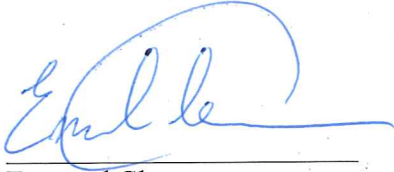
Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



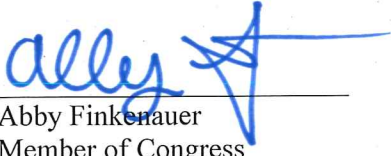
Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



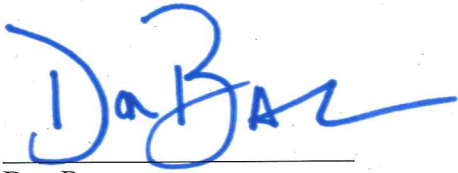
Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



Don Bacon  
Member of Congress