

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7th, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Administrator Wheeler:

We request you immediately end the practice of granting Small Refinery Exemptions (SRE) under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for large or unqualified refiners. Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated its public SRE list, bringing the total number of approved SRE requests to 54 since President Trump took office without a single denial. This unprecedented rate of granting waivers is a betrayal of our rural communities, detrimental to our energy security, and threatens our entire agricultural sector at a time of declining incomes and rising debts for our producers. EPA must halt this process and reallocate waived gallons as the law intends.

The RFS requires renewable fuel to be blended into petroleum-based fuel in increasing amounts each year from its introduction up to 36 billion gallons of blended fuel by 2022, with blending targets for following years to be set by EPA. Continually granting unjustified SREs and failing to reallocate the waived gallons effectively lowers annual blending targets, contrary to the letter and intent of the law. These waivers increase market uncertainty for biofuel producers and farmers – and ultimately every American consumer. At a time when our rural communities are already hurting, these SREs have caused a loss of 2.6 billion gallons of renewable fuel blending and almost a billion bushels of corn demand.

Granting exemptions to the RFS increases American dependence on foreign oil. By continually waiving the requirements of the RFS for small refineries, the EPA fosters uncertainty about the program creating uncertainty for those interested in investing and developing America's biofuel industry. Further it disincentivizes refineries from taking the steps necessary to begin to meet the standards set by the RFS and make domestic biofuels available to consumers.

The right decision is clear. We request the EPA stop granting improper SRE requests immediately and distribute the gallons waived in previous years.

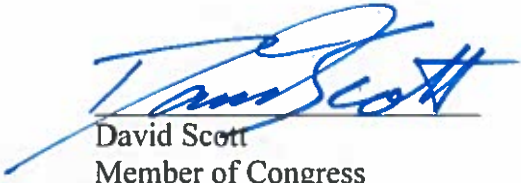
Sincerely,



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



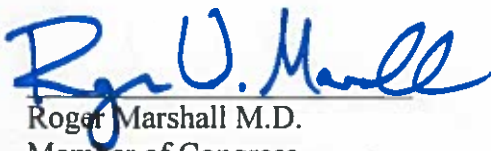
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



David Scott
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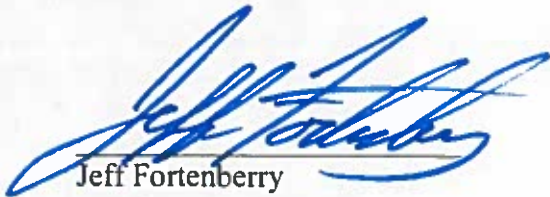
Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



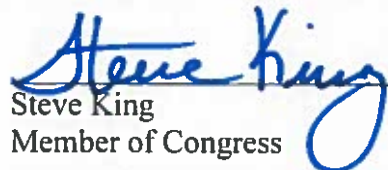
Cheri Bustos
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Nanette Diaz Barragan
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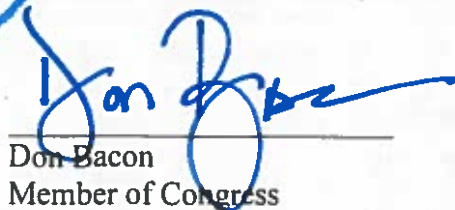
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Lauren Underwood
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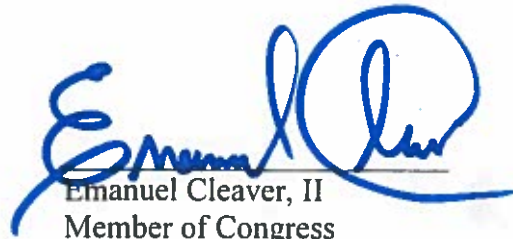
Rodney Davis
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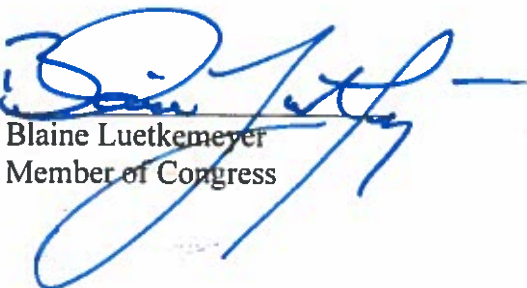
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