



Agribusiness Association of Iowa

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January 27, 2014

Ms. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. McCarthy,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed Renewable Fuel Standard (“RFS”), Docket Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0479.

On behalf of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, which is made up of over 1,100 members of feed and grain companies, crop input suppliers, equipment manufacturers, and service related industries, from across the State of Iowa, we oppose the proposed RFS reduction. The proposed reductions will have devastating effects on Iowans that will cascade, not only through our local economies, but across the Nation, adversely impacting businesses and families alike. Indeed, the proposed rule would result in the loss of thousands of quality jobs and have devastating impacts on rural communities across Iowa. Our member businesses that supply feed, seed, crop protection products, grain, fertilizer and equipment, among others, will all be adversely impacted at a time when the cost of agriculture production and distribution continues to increase. Moreover, many of these Iowa businesses invested in renewable fuels and additional grain storage and handling facilities as a direct result of EPA’s published policies, and to change course would punish those businesses for their investments in support of EPA policies. In short, in order to continue generating high quality agribusiness jobs, services and products, agribusiness in Iowa depends on maintaining the current RFS levels.

Further, the proposed reduction in renewable fuels will chill the significant efforts currently underway in Iowa to improve our environment and national energy security. By reducing the availability of renewable fuels, as proposed, there will be a correlating increase in the need for foreign oil and an equally large decrease in national energy security. Moreover, not only will the proposed reduction inhibit our Nation from meeting its energy independence goals, but it will negatively impact our environment. It is irrefutable that renewable fuel is a sustainable energy alternative that is far better for our environment and security. By maintaining the current RFS

plan, we will continue our economic recovery and forge ahead in making progress on energy independence and sustainable living. We respectfully request that you allow the RFS to function as intended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel Brinkmeyer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Joel Brinkmeyer, CEO
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