Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2016

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

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We write today to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to propose 2017 conventional biofuel and 2018 biodiesel Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) renewable volume obligations consistent with enacted law.

Unfortunately, we, along with our constituents, were disappointed in the finalized RFS levels set by the EPA for 2016 for ethanol and 2017 for biodiesel. These levels did not meet the obligations established by Congress under the *Energy Policy Act of 2005* and the *Energy Independence and Security Act*. However, we appreciate your public commitment to getting the RFS back on track and view this year's RFS levels as the opportunity to meet that commitment.

As the premier renewable fuels producer in the nation, Iowa is home to 42 ethanol biorefineries capable of producing over 4 billion gallons annually, 12 biodiesel production facilities capable of producing 315 million gallons annually, and three cellulosic ethanol plants which will have combined annual capacity exceeding 50 million gallons.

Our agricultural base in Iowa, serving as feedstock for ethanol and biodiesel production, has near record supplies of excess corn. In addition, low oil prices spurred surging fuel demand and large retailers of gasoline are embracing higher ethanol blends. Furthermore, the United States is importing record amounts of foreign biodiesel from countries like Argentina and Canada, despite growing domestic capacity.

Because of these reasons, the EPA should announce a 2017 level for conventional biofuels at 15 billion gallons and set an aggressive biomass-based diesel level for 2018. We believe the statutory levels are more than achievable in the coming year.

We appreciate your due consideration of our request and we stand ready to work with

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you to return RFS into a robust framework to grant consumers fuel choices, increase our national security, boost farm income, and protect our environment.

Sincerely,

Representative David Young

Senator Charles E. Grassley

Representative Rod Blum

Senator Joni K. Ernst

Representative Steve King

Representative Dave Loebsack