



May 7, 2018

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

While millions of Americans are benefitting from a growing economy and your recent tax reforms, the U.S. Department of Agriculture projects 2018 net farm income will decline by \$4.3 billion, a 6.7 percent reduction from 2017 levels, resulting in the lowest net farm income, in nominal dollars, since 2006. Because of the challenging economic situation facing them, farmers have paid close attention to the policies of your Administration, particularly when it comes to trade and renewable fuels.

We appreciated your comments during an April 12<sup>th</sup> White House meeting on agriculture issues that your Administration would address regulatory barriers that prevent year-round sales of higher ethanol blends such as E15. We agree that this barrier is unnecessary, and removing it would benefit not only farmers, but also consumers and air quality. We urge you to move forward with implementing this solution and will work alongside you and your Administration to help remedy this unnecessary and outdated regulation.

In recent weeks, we have become greatly concerned with reports that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has waived up to 1.6 billion gallons of Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volume requirements for refiners. These exemptions run contrary to your commitment to America's farmers and remove a significant amount of renewable fuel gallons from RFS volumes. Because of these exemptions, RIN values, a stated concern of refiners, have fallen significantly and remain low. Even though EPA has concluded those values do not cause economic harm to refiners, any concerns have been alleviated through the exemptions granted by EPA. Refiners have benefitted greatly from these exemptions, but farmers have been negatively impacted by EPA's decisions. In addition to asking EPA to reassign these exempted gallons, we also ask that EPA commit to the statutory level for advanced biofuels for 2019 and provide significant growth for biomass-based diesel in 2020 to address lost gallons of advanced biofuels

Mr. President, as you continue to meet to discuss issues related to the RFS, we appreciate your support for renewable fuels and rural America. We urge to you to follow through on the needed regulatory fix for higher blends and ensuring the volumes of renewable fuel as the solution to address farmer and refiner concerns without further undercutting the RFS, such as imposing a RIN cap, and causing additional harm to the farm economy.

Sincerely,

Kevin Skunes, President  
National Corn Growers Association

John Heisdorffer, President  
American Soybean Association

Zippy Duvall, President  
American Farm Bureau Federation

Roger Johnson, President  
National Farmers Union

Jimmie Musick, President  
National Association of Wheat Growers

cc: Secretary Perdue, Administrator Pruitt