



May 7, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
United States Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

On behalf of corn farmers nationwide, the National Corn Growers Association and state corn grower associations greatly appreciate your advocacy for agriculture within the Trump Administration. Your steadfast support for farmers and rural America has helped ensure that President Trump understands current pressures in the agriculture economy and how policy proposals under consideration would affect farmers.

Corn growers were pleased with President Trump's April 12 commitment to make policy changes that would allow for the year-round sale of ethanol blends greater than 10 percent, such as E15. As you know, we have long proposed removing the RVP barrier to higher blends to increase the production and consumption of renewable fuels, along with the supply of RINs, to lower RIN values.

Rather than proposals that would destroy demand by blocking the RIN market mechanism's ability to drive biofuels blending, providing RVP parity would lower RIN values by increasing ethanol demand. Allowing year-round sales of blends greater than 10 percent benefits consumers through lower prices at the pump, reduces emissions and provides corn farmers with a more stable market.

Your recent statements to the Senate Agriculture Committee that you are encouraging both President Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to move forward with the commitment to advance RVP parity sent a strong message to farmers about your support. We ask that you continue to press President Trump to direct EPA to proceed with a rulemaking.

We also appreciate you increasing President Trump's awareness of how the extensive RFS volume waivers granted to refineries have circumvented the President's commitment to maintaining a volume requirement of 15 billion gallons. As you observed, these exemptions have effectively created the RIN price control sought by refiners, providing a large benefit to refiners at the expense of farmers. With estimates of 1.6 billion gallons of RFS volume requirement waived, and the potential for more waivers, we believe EPA must stop issuing these exemptions and provide full transparency of the exemptions issued. For farmers, a loss of 1 billion gallons of ethanol production translates to the loss of 2.1 million harvested acres of corn, which is equivalent to annual harvested corn acres in the state of Michigan.

As you work with President Trump, Administrator Pruitt and Members of Congress, we encourage you to continue to advocate for real solutions, such as RVP parity for higher blends, and to continue to highlight the demand destruction caused by EPA's refinery exemptions, as well as how EPA's actions contradict President Trump's commitments. Thank you for your work on behalf of America's corn farmers.

Sincerely,

Kevin Skunes, President
National Corn Growers Association

Stan Usery, President
Alabama Soybean and Corn Association

David Eckhardt, President
Colorado Corn Growers Association

Rodney Harrell, President
Georgia Corn Growers Association

Aron Carlson, President
Illinois Corn Growers Association

Sarah Delbecq, President
Indiana Corn Growers Association

Mark Recker, President
Iowa Corn Growers Association

Ken McCauley, President
Kansas Corn Growers Association

Mark Roberts, President
Kentucky Corn Growers Association

Jason McConnachie, President
Michigan Corn Growers Association

Kirby Hettver, President
Minnesota Corn Growers Association

Kyle Kirby, President
Missouri Corn Growers Association

Dan Wesely, President
Nebraska Corn Growers Association

Jason Swede, President
New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association

Carson Klosterman, President
North Dakota Corn Growers Association

Jed Bower, President
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association

Troy Knecht, President
South Dakota Corn Growers Association

Joe Reed, President
Texas Corn Producers Association

Jay Taliaferro, President
Virginia Grain Producers Association

Doug Rebut, President
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association