

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1504

February 19, 2020

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE

JUDICIARY

SMALL BUSINESS

President Donald Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write to extend to you my concerns with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent rule regarding the Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) for 2020. While the rule includes an increase in Advanced Biofuels and Biomass Based Diesel, it fails to guarantee that 15 billion gallons of conventional (corn-based) ethanol will be blended. Historically, the EPA has failed to enforce this law, creating an unfair advantage for petroleum.

In compliance year 2018 alone, the EPA granted 31 small refiner exemptions (SREs) under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Cumulatively, these exempted gallons frustrate the intent of the RFS, thereby compromising the livelihood of our nation's farmers and the ability of our citizens to obtain the cleaner, efficient fuel that they increasingly demand. Recognizing the distress the matter was causing farmers in my district at home in Iowa, I introduced two bills in June 2019. H.R. 3410 would ensure that the gallons waived through SREs would be added to RFS requirements. H.R. 3411 would ensure that gallons waived through SREs in previous calendar years are accounted for by adding them to RFS requirements in future calendar years.

Together my bills would protect the RFS volume requirements from being further undermined by the EPA's use of SREs. This is the same objective you sought in the September 12, 2019 meeting you convened in the Oval Office to restore the RFS to its original intent. The foundation of that important objective was to ensure that at least 15 billion gallons of conventional biofuel are blended, accounting for waivers by using a three-year rolling average of actual volumes waived by SREs.

EPA's proposal simply will not ensure that a minimum of 15 billion gallons are blended, because it does not rely on actual volumes waived by SREs in order to account for waivers, but instead relies on the recommendation of the Department of Energy (DOE).

Although the EPA proposal allows the agency to enforce the agreement made in the Oval Office on September 12, it does not guarantee it. For this reason, I request that you make a declarative statement that a minimum of 15 billion gallons will be blended annually and that all gallons actually waived will be annually recaptured under the RFS.

Sincerely,


Congressman Steve King

AMES OFFICE
1421 S. BELL AVENUE, SUITE 102
AMES, IA 50010
(515) 232-2885
FAX: (515) 232-2844

FORT DODGE OFFICE
723 CENTRAL AVENUE
FORT DODGE, IA 50501
(515) 573-2738
FAX: (515) 576-7141

MASON CITY OFFICE
2020 1ST STREET SE, SUITE 126
MASON CITY, IA 50401
(641) 201-1624
FAX: (641) 201-1523

[HTTP://WWW.STEVEKING.HOUSE.GOV](http://www.steveking.house.gov)

SIoux CITY OFFICE
320 6TH STREET
ROOM 112
SIoux CITY, IA 51101
(712) 224-4692
FAX: (712) 224-4693

SPENCER OFFICE
P.O. BOX 650
SPENCER, IA 51301
(712) 580-7754
FAX: (712) 580-3354

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
2210 RAYBURN
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4426
FAX: (202) 225-3193