

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2015

Reform the Renewable Fuel Standard
Cosponsor the RFS Reform Act

Dear Colleague:

The federal government's ethanol mandate is not working, and Congress must have a serious conversation about continued market-distorting ethanol promotion. One of the big drivers of ethanol prices and supply is an artificial market, created by the federal government. The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) mandates that 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels be blended in our nation's fuel supply – a mandate largely being fulfilled by grain ethanol that comes from corn.

The federal government's creation of an artificial market for the ethanol industry has quite frankly created a domino effect that is hurting consumers. It is expected that this year over 40 percent of the U.S. corn crop will be used for ethanol production. With increasing food and feed stocks being diverted into fuel, we are seeing diminished supplies for livestock and food producers. This has resulted in consumers seeing higher food prices at grocery stores.

While the RFS is causing food prices to go up, the RFS has not provided relief for consumers at the pump. In fact, citing the RFS, the EPA has previously set the target for refiners to blend cellulosic biofuels into gasoline at a level higher than the amount of cellulosic biofuels that actually exists. When these non-existent fuels cannot be blended, refiners are financially penalized, and these costs are ultimately passed on to consumers at the pump.

The RFS is causing unintended and negative consequences for American consumers, energy producers, livestock farmers, and food manufacturers and retailers. The RFS needs fundamental reform and we urge you to join us by cosponsoring legislation to accomplish this task. The *RFS Reform Act* will eliminate the corn-based ethanol requirements, cap the amount of ethanol that can be blended into conventional gasoline at 10 percent, and require the EPA to set cellulosic biofuel levels that reflects industry production levels.

The RFS Reform Act has the support of a broad range of agriculture, consumer, energy, manufacturers, retailers, environmental, and taxpayer organizations and carried strong bipartisan support in the 113th Congress. We are proponents of renewable fuels when they compete fairly in the marketplace, but the current policy needs fundamental reform. If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor, please contact Karen Williams with Mr. Goodlatte (6-0881) Donald Grady with Mr. Costa (5-3341), Ivy Williams Malone with Mr. Womack (5-4301) or Mark Fowler with Mr. Welch (5-4115).

Sincerely,

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress