



UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
1032 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 31, 2016

Dear Congressman Cramer:

National Farmers Union (NFU), North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU), National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the North Dakota Corn Growers (NDCG) write to express our concern with your recent statements suggesting the RFS should end in 2022 and to assert the need for renewable fuel mandates after 2022. Biofuels are critical to U.S. energy independence, national security and rural economies, including communities in North Dakota.

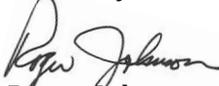
The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) acts as a counterbalance to the threat of trade imbalances and supply disruption, which are very real hazards given the instability in many places where transportation fuels are produced. The ethanol industry it supports adds more than \$300 million annually to the North Dakota economy and \$42.4 billion to the US Gross Domestic Product.

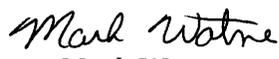
Unfortunately, in recent years the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not met its obligation under the RFS. This has undermined opportunities for farmers and consumers across the U.S. by allowing branded oil companies to stifle competition and deny access to this important market. In light of these setbacks, volume obligations beyond 2022 are even more important, since ethanol refiners will need to make up for lost time to overcome the unfair and monopolistic chokehold on consumer transportation fuels.

Now, with low commodity prices crippling the farm economy and EPA reluctant to live up to its statutory duty, your advice to presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is especially harmful and troubling. Mr. Trump has previously acknowledged the benefits of fair access to markets for ethanol, and we must remind you of the harm any changes in the biofuels policy he expressed in advance of the Iowa caucuses will bring to the rural communities of North Dakota and the United States.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We stand ready to provide you with any information or assistance that may be helpful to you on this matter.

Sincerely,


Roger Johnson


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