



GOVERNORS' BIOFUELS COALITION

- **Minnesota** Gov. Tim Walz, Chair
- **South Dakota** Gov. Kristi Noem, Vice Chair
- **Executive Director**, Larry Pearce

October 8, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

As Chair and Vice Chair of the Governors' Biofuels Coalition, we want to thank you for listening to and working with the nation's agricultural leaders and biofuel producers to develop a proposal to help mitigate the effects of EPA's small refinery exemptions. While the small refinery exemptions have already damaged the economic health of biofuels producers across the country, this proposal is an important effort towards restoring confidence to producers and bringing stability to the industry. We are pleased that EPA will publish a proposed supplemental rule to address future small refinery waivers and will honor the Renewable Fuel Standard's blending requirements. We urge EPA to finalize the rule as soon as possible.

We respectfully request that your Administration use existing executive authority to act immediately to help restore and grow the nation's agriculture and biofuels industries. You can also take additional administrative steps now to grow the nation's agriculture and biofuels industries without Congress's approval. Please consider taking the following steps now:

- Direct EPA to enforce the Clean Air Act and reduce the aromatics in gasoline, opening new market opportunities for ethanol to replace toxics and give refiners more options to meet octane demand with high octane ethanol. Replacing hazardous aromatics in gasoline with biofuel will reduce carbon emissions and will provide incalculable health benefits, especially for those Americans living in urban areas.
- Direct EPA to extend the RVP waiver to higher ethanol blends, including E30. Efforts to revitalize rural growth must include a waiver for all ethanol blends above E15, including E30. EPA's regulations have unnecessarily limited the amount of ethanol used in the market, despite the economic and environmental benefits that come with increased ethanol consumption.

- Direct EPA to update its lifecycle carbon findings. EPA's estimate of lifecycle carbon emissions associated with ethanol have not been updated for a decade, thereby permitting the use of obsolete data to distort the public's perception of biofuels' environmental benefits. Recent studies show that one of the most effective ways to reduce the carbon in gasoline is to encourage the widespread use of high-octane, lower carbon gasoline blends.
- Direct EPA to resume processing and approving registration applications for the production of cellulosic ethanol from corn kernel fiber for D3 RIN credit under existing regulations. Applications from companies seeking D3 RIN approval have been delayed in EPA's regulatory process, resulting in millions of cellulosic biofuel gallons withheld from the marketplace because of regulatory delay.

These administrative actions would immediately expand renewable energy production and allow the states, especially those in the Midwest, to harvest the economic and environmental benefits of a thriving biofuels industry. We welcome an opportunity to work with you and Administrator Wheeler on these and other steps to benefit the states' biofuels industries.



Tim Walz, Chair
and Governor of Minnesota



Kristi Noem, Vice Chair
and Governor of South Dakota

cc: The Honorable Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Doug Hoelscher, Deputy Assistant to the President & Director,
White House Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honorable Francis Brooke, Special Assistant to the President for
Energy and Environmental Policy
Member Governors