



GOVERNORS' BIOFUELS COALITION

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

July 23, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Young and Administrator Regan:

We write to you today as the chair and vice chair of the Governors' Biofuels Coalition. For over two decades, this bipartisan coalition has worked together to advance biofuels, agriculture, and environmental policy with a unified message from the nation's governors.

As the Office of Management and Budget continues to review the Safe Affordable Fuel Efficient Vehicles (SAFE) rule, there is a great opportunity to meet the Administration's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality while providing continued growth of the nation's biofuels industry.

Despite consumer trends toward hybrid and electric vehicles, the reality is that Americans will continue to rely on liquid fuels for decades to come. The Administration should pursue a balanced approach to fuel economy standards that acknowledges this reality and provides greater market access for home-grown energy sources with a proven track record of reducing emissions while supporting American jobs. High-octane domestic biofuels like ethanol provide an opportunity to significantly reduce GHGs and improve air quality today and into the future.

Over the years, we have seen firsthand how the ethanol industry has transformed and revived rural communities while reducing harmful emissions. A revised SAFE rule that provides an expanded market for high-octane ethanol is a means to reduce GHGs and harmful air emissions, provide much needed economic stability in rural America and provide countless health and economic benefits to all Americans.

Without question, higher octane allows automakers to increase engine efficiency and achieve the objectives of the proposed SAFE rule. The use of low carbon fuels such as ethanol will ensure that octane does not come from carcinogenic aromatics that release fine particulate emissions associated with respiratory diseases that affect all Americans, especially vulnerable populations and those living in urban areas. The adoption of a revised SAFE rule that does not significantly reduce gasoline aromatics will be a missed opportunity to reduce fine particle pollution while maintaining the healthy and vibrancy of our rural communities.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss the use of biofuels in the revised SAFE rule with you and your staff in more detail. If members of your staff need additional information, please contact us or Larry Pearce, the Governors' Biofuels Coalition's executive director (402-651-2948, larrypearce@governorscoalition.org).

Tim Walz, Chair
Governor of Minnesota



Kristi Noem, Vice Chair
Governor of South Dakota



cc:

The Honorable Joseph Goffman, Assistant Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Brenda Mallory, White House Council on Environmental Quality
The Honorable Brian Dees, National Economic Council
The Honorable Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Deputy Director of Public Engagement