



GOVERNORS' BIOFUELS COALITION

• **Nebraska** Gov. Pete Ricketts, Chair • **Iowa** Gov. Terry Branstad, Former Chair • **South Dakota** Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Former Chair

March 6, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write on behalf of governors from states across the nation who believe that two of America's great treasures are agriculture and renewable fuels and to commend you for your positive statements about biofuels over the last year.

Our states are the home to over 200 biorefineries that are producing tens of thousands of jobs, sequestering tons of carbon, saving millions of barrels of foreign oil, and making enormous financial contributions to our states' and the nation's economies. As governors, we agree that one of the best ways to meet the nation's energy needs is to expand biofuels production.

We look forward to working with your Administration to maximize these benefits through the following initiatives, which can be addressed with regulatory modifications and better alignment to current law:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should provide parity for E10 and higher ethanol blends. EPA's erroneous legal analysis that E15 — although it is an even cleaner fuel than E10 — does not qualify for the decades-old partial exemption of E10 from the *Clean Air Act's* fuel volatility limitations discriminates against higher blends of ethanol and demonstrates unnecessary red tape from Washington, DC.
- EPA's lifecycle carbon findings should be updated. The EPA has failed to update lifecycle carbon findings for a decade, thereby sanctioning the use of obsolete data. This distorts the public's perception of biofuels' environmental benefits. Recent studies show that an effective way to reduce the carbon in gasoline is the widespread use of high-octane, lower carbon gasoline blends.
- The EPA should enforce the Renewable Fuel Standard as approved by Congress.

- EPA should update the 2014 Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) model to prohibit spurious comparisons of high- and low-ethanol emissions factors. The MOVES model — which EPA requires the states to use in developing their state implementation plans — negatively impacts those who live in the nation’s largest cities or near congested roadways.

We believe these steps will further advance the development of the nation’s renewable energy resources by removing bureaucratic administrative barriers. We look forward to working with you, your Administration and Congress to further our states’ and the nation’s biofuel energy development.

We would welcome an opportunity to renew that important state-federal partnership. Thank you for your consideration of our request and your commitment to the nation’s energy future. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Pete Ricketts
Vice Chairman and
Governor of Nebraska



Terry E. Branstad
Former Chairman and
Governor of Iowa



Dennis Daugaard
Former Chairman and
Governor of South Dakota

cc:

The Honorable Rick Perry, U.S. Secretary of Energy Nominee

The Honorable Scott Pruitt, U.S EPA Administrator

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, U.S Department of Agriculture Nominee

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, White House Office of Management & Budget