

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2301

November 27, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Comment Tracking Number: 1k3-9djv-vpv5

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

I have written to you before. I have discussed this issue with the White House. I am working with the USDA and I continue to work with a bipartisan group of Representatives and Senators.

I am here today to make my position clear that I expect the EPA to uphold the President's promise made on October 4, 2019, to rural America and to implement the Congress's intent on the Renewable Fuel Standard. I write to you today in frustration. In the last three years, waivers granted to refineries by your agency have eliminated four billion gallons of ethanol. That's a quarter of the ethanol produced last year in the U.S. -- the equivalent of 50 ethanol plants. With two biodiesel and 11 ethanol plants across southern Minnesota, these exemptions have negative consequences for the First District of Minnesota.

Biofuels play a major role in the economic well-being of my district. These plants support 3,000 jobs in towns such as Albert Lea, Preston and Luverne. Not only do these plants support these great jobs, but they generate \$235 million in household income for my constituents.

The EPA's continued loose interpretation of the Small Refinery Exemptions (SRE) Rule puts my hardworking farmers' and workers' ways of life at risk. Here are my demands:

- Enforce the original biofuel targets that were agreed upon by President Trump, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, former Energy Secretary Rick Perry and yourself;
- Limit the ability of large and unqualified companies to use SRE's;
- Restore all the lost gallons that were destroyed by retroactive SRE waivers granted for years 2016, 2017 and 2018; and,
- Boost the proposed volume requirements by the amount of retroactive exemptions EPA reasonably anticipates granting for 2019 and 2020.

I look forward to you and your agency upholding the promises made.

Sincerely,



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress