

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

As you finalize the proposed rules under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), we respectfully urge you to not reduce the biofuels volume requirement. The RFS program has helped the environment, our economy, and has increased our confidence in renewable fuels. Renewable fuels like cellulosic and advanced biofuels have reduced greenhouse gas and carbon emission to an equivalent of removing more than 124 million cars from the roads. The result of this reduction is an increase in air quality. Poor air quality particularly affects those in urban areas and communities of color.

The RFS is the only Congressionally authorized program to reduce greenhouse gases and carbon emission from the private sector. In addition to the health benefits of reducing greenhouse gases, we in Congress intended for the RFS to provide an incentive to drive investments in biofuel production and technology. The RFS is creating jobs and benefitting consumers. Reducing the biofuels volume requirement could have a chilling effect on innovation, and thus directly affect job creation. With unemployment at an average of 10 percent in minority communities, it is important that we do not obstruct an entire industry that has created 852,000 American jobs and has the potential to create more.

Furthermore, biofuel is a significantly cheaper fuel alternative to traditional gasoline. This is extremely important to vulnerable communities that spend a weighty portion of their income commuting to work. Both directly and indirectly, the RFS and biofuel industry has an impact on our economy and society.


The Environmental Protection Agency cited the lack of infrastructure as a reason for lowering the Congressionally suggested biofuel volume requirement. However, we know that the oil industry largely controls that infrastructure. If we accept the argument that infrastructure is a limiting factor in setting blending targets, we remove all incentive for the oil industry to invest in biofuel.

Finally, as the EPA focuses attention on its climate change priorities, we urge continued attention to toxic emissions from fossil fuels that compromise human health and cause illnesses such as childhood asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and other adverse health effects. EPA's

approach to the RFS should not be inconsistent with the Administration's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and address global climate change. Reducing the biofuel volume requirement will affect our economy and health and is against Congressional intent.

We respectfully urge the Environmental Protection Agency to not reduce the biofuels volume requirement.


Sincerely,




Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



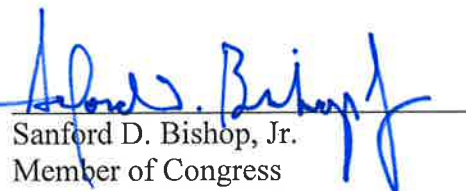
Yvette D. Clarke
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress




Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress




Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



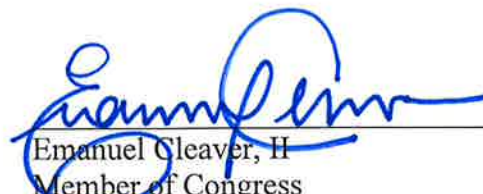
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Charles B. Rangel
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress




Alma S. Adams
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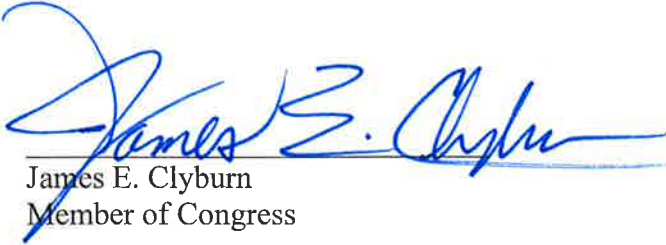
Robin Kelly
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G.K. Butterfield
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André Carson
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James E. Clyburn
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