

Office of U.S. Senator Joni Ernst  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3254

Dear U.S. Senator Joni Ernst,

We write to you today as proud Iowa farmers, producers, and biofuel advocates urging you to call for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler's immediate resignation.

For too long we have been bearing the unforgiving weight of a federal government and EPA that will seemingly go to any length to protect the profit margins of the oil industry.

New reports indicate that EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former fossil fuel lobbyist who made [backroom promises to Big Oil](#) during his Senate confirmation, is considering 52 gap-year waiver requests. These waivers are backdated to 2011, allowing oil industry giants to retroactively circumvent critical RFS requirements. This is unacceptable.

Over the past four years, the EPA has gifted away 85 harmful waivers to the oil industry, including Exxon and Chevron. These handouts have diverted [at least 4 billion gallons](#) of blended biofuel from the market, hitting Iowa the hardest – the #1 ethanol producer in the country.

**Following this distressing development, businesswoman and U.S. Senate candidate Theresa Greenfield called on EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler to immediately step down. We strongly implore you to follow suit.** While calling for this urgent step cannot reverse the damage caused by the vote to confirm Andrew Wheeler in the first place, demanding Wheeler's resignation is a critical test of your commitment to Iowa's farmers and biofuel industry.

Iowa's biofuel industry is closing in on a point of breaking beyond repair. The time for promises and talk is over. [Over 150 biofuel plants](#) have reduced or halted production amid unprecedented hardship, and farm bankruptcies are at an [eight-year high](#). Every additional day Administrator Wheeler holds power is another turn of the screw against an industry already on the brink of collapse.

Regards,

Patty Judge, Cofounder of Focus on Rural America and former Lieutenant Governor

Aaron Lehman, President of Iowa Farmers Union and Polk City farmer

Chris Petersen, former President of Iowa Farmers Union and Clear Lake farmer

Denise O'Brien and Larry Harris, owners of Rolling Acres Farm in Atlantic

Dave Muhlbauer, Crawford County Supervisor and farmer

David Weaver, Rippey farmer

Emily Miller, Board Member of Iowa Farmers Union

Jerry Rosman, Board Member of Iowa Farmers Union and Harlan farmer

John Gilbert, Board Member of Iowa Farmers Union and President of Gibraltar Farms, Inc. in Iowa Falls

Joshua Manske, Board Member of Iowa Farmers Union

Julia McGuire, Vice President of Iowa Farmers Union and West Des Moines honey producer

Kent Scheib, Perry farmer

Kevin Kinney, State Senator and Ranking Member on the Agriculture Committee representing Johnson, Keokuk, and Washington counties, farmer

Kevin Middleswart, Indianola farmer

Mike Carberry, Board Member of Iowa Farmers Union

Ryan Marquardt, Board Member of Iowa Farmers Union and owner of Wild Rose Pastures in Van Meter