



April 10, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of the Administrator, 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that American energy dominance is front and center to the EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" Initiative. As you know, biofuels play a critical role towards meeting this goal, while also strengthening America's Heartland and its rural communities through industry investment, jobs, and availability of U.S.-produced, low-cost alternative liquid fuels.

Our states represent some of the largest biofuel producing and feedstock growing states in the country. Since the implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), our farm families have seen firsthand how crucial strong renewable fuel demand is to their livelihoods and communities. In fact, industry analyses found that ethanol and biodiesel production were responsible for \$80 billion dollars in economic activity and more than 150,000 jobs in 2022.<sup>1</sup>

Over the past several years, the biofuels industry has made significant investments to expand domestic production capacity and strengthen feedstock supply. Unfortunately, the Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) levels set by the previous Administration failed to reflect this growth. As a result, an increasing number of biofuel producers, including ethanol and biodiesel facilities, have been forced to slow or cease operations, costing rural communities jobs and weakening key markets for American farmers.

To support the long-term stability of the U.S. biofuels sector and rural economy, we urge the EPA to establish a 2026 RVO of no less than 15 billion gallons for conventional ethanol and 5.25 billion gallons for biomass-based diesel—reflecting the growth in domestic production capacity and feedstock supply. Setting higher volumes will send a strong, long-term signal to the market giving biofuel producers and American farmers the confidence to invest, grow, and sustain their

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy24osti/88998.pdf>



operations. For our multi-generational farm families, a strong RVO is more than policy—it's a critical foundation for their future.

Thank you for your consideration of this extremely important request. Our states look forward to continuing our critical role in achieving the Trump Administration's goal of American energy dominance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds  
Governor of Iowa

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Pillen".

Jim Pillen  
Governor of Nebraska

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Rhoden".

Larry Rhoden  
Governor of South Dakota

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Kehoe".

Mike Kehoe  
Governor of Missouri