

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Hart 112 Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Russell 205 Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe,

The undersigned coalition of business associations, hunger and development organizations, agricultural groups, environmental groups, budget hawks, and free marketers request that you hold hearings on the impacts of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) on the environment, food price volatility, and the economy.

The credibility of the RFS has come under scrutiny due to a recent analysis by the National Academy of Sciences, the United Nations Committee on World Food Security's (UN CFS) High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, and the ongoing Renewable Identification Number (RIN) scandal.

The recent National Academy of Sciences study on the RFS found that this policy is likely increasing air pollutants, exacerbating global warming, degrading water sources, and damaging biodiversity. The study also found that the advanced biofuels industry is unlikely to fill the RFS's volumetric mandate by 2022 because of excessively high feedstock and production costs. Thus, the RFS is failing to achieve its intended goals of bringing about truly environmentally and economically sustainable alternative transportation fuels, while mandating massive volumes of harmful fuels like corn ethanol.

Additionally, a number of academic and peer reviewed studies have found that the RFS has contributed to food price volatility, including "The Food Crisis: A quantitative model of food prices including speculators and ethanol conversion" from the New England Complex Systems Institute and "The Impact of Biofuels Policies on Agricultural Price Levels and Volatility" from the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development in Iowa State. Most recently, the UN CFS member countries, including the United States, agreed to review biofuels policies that potentially impact food price volatility. As a major producer of corn ethanol, it is imperative that the US reviews its biofuel policies in accordance with this international agreement, including the RFS.

Moreover, in addition to the RFS's questionable ability to bring about environmentally beneficial transportation fuels and its impact on food prices, the RFS's trading scheme also has the potential for fraud. The EPA recently identified \$9 million worth of registered but fraudulent RINs, highlighting the potential problems of the RFS compliance system.

On behalf of our hundreds of thousands of members, supporters and activists, we request that you hold hearings on the environmental and economic effects of the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Sincerely,

ActionAid USA

Americans for Limited Government

Americans for Tax Reform

California Dairy Campaign

Clean Air Task Force

Competitive Enterprise Institute

Dairy Producers of New Mexico

Dairy Producers of Utah

Freedom Action

Friends of the Earth

Greenpeace USA

Idaho Dairymen's Association

National Marine Manufacturers Association

Nevada Dairy Commission

Northwest Dairy Association

Milk Producers Council

Oregon Dairy Farmers Association

Oxfam America

Public Citizen

Southeast Milk Inc.

Washington State Dairy Federation