

Nebraska Delegation Comments

U.S. Senator Deb Fischer: “Nebraskans are blessed with a diverse array of energy resources, and they work hard every day to protect them. I applaud Governor Ricketts, representatives from Novozymes, and the Nebraska Farm Bureau for highlighting the importance of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and encouraging Nebraskans to make their voices heard during the EPA’s rulemaking process. Support for the RFS will only enhance our energy supplies and reduce dependence on foreign oil. By keeping costs down, we can embolden opportunities for Nebraska families, producers, and businesses.”

U.S. Senator Ben Sasse: “Because the Senate is in Session today considering the highway bill, I am unfortunately unable to attend the Novozymes event and would like to thank Governor Ricketts for extending the invitation. The work accomplished by Novozymes is truly innovative and I applaud their commitment to bringing advancements to the market. Companies like this one prove we can have robust biofuels production that strengthens our economy and diversifies our energy security. I expect Novozymes will continue to excel and meet the energy demands of the 21st Century. I look forward to another opportunity to meet with the industry leaders at Novozymes and will continue my support for a strong biofuels market.”

U.S. Congressman Jeff Fortenberry: “Ethanol plays an essential role in our nation's renewable energy strategy, helping lower gas prices and protect the environment. The EPA's proposal would adversely impact long held public policy goals and hurt farmers, consumers, and the environment.”

U.S. Congressman Adrian Smith: “Nebraska’s Third District distills more ethanol than any other congressional district in the country. Despite record harvests showing the ethanol supply exists, excessive government regulation continues to prevent this clean, efficient, and affordable fuel source from reaching consumers. Ironically, the EPA blamed ‘constraints in the fuel market’ for its recent decision to lower RFS targets. In April, I introduced H.R. 1736 to expand consumer choice at the fuel pump. This legislation would extend to E15 the same waiver from EPA volatility standards already granted to E10, allowing these ethanol blends to be sold year-round. We have exciting opportunities to boost biofuel production in Nebraska and our country, but the EPA must stop undermining these efforts with excessive red tape.”

U.S. Congressman Brad Ashford: “I will continue to work with members of both parties to fight any attempt by the EPA that would slash the Renewable Fuel Standard program. These severe cuts would seriously harm Nebraska’s growing economy, along with harming the environment and damaging national security,” said Ashford. “As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am well aware of the strategic importance of reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Home-grown fuel doubles as an economic engine and a defender of freedom.”

Iowa Delegation Comments

U.S. Congressman Steve King: The Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) is the only tool that provides market access so that ethanol and other renewable fuels are sold in competition with petroleum. The Consumer Choice Provision was enacted by Congress and sets the framework for the RFS targets in law. The EPA, in another example of executive overreach, recently rolled back the RFS targets, presumably because of short grain supplies and high grain prices. We have harvested the largest corn crop ever and seen grain

prices cut in more than half. The RFS is more important now than ever. Additionally, the devastation caused by the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (bird flu), especially in my district, has temporarily reduced the demand for corn, giving the RFS even more significance.”

U.S. Congressman David Young: “Since its creation in 2007, the Renewable Fuel Standard has promoted cleaner air, created good-paying jobs, fostered rural economic growth and helped reduce the country's dependency on foreign oil – enhancing our country’s energy security. We must not limit the choices our consumers have at the pump. We need competition that drives further investment, offers choice in our transportation fuel supply and ultimately keeps us safer as a nation. I will continue fight for a strong RFS and against any attempts to undermine its use. I commend Governor Ricketts for his leadership on this issue and I join all those in attendance at this event in supporting a strong RFS for Iowa, Nebraska, and the country.”

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