

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 5, 2012

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients
Acting Director and Deputy Director for Management
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Zients,

We are writing to share our concern about the delay in the issuance of the final rule establishing the 2013 biodiesel volume requirement under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2). We urge you, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to ensure that the proposed rule setting the volumetric requirement for biomass-based diesel at 1.28 billion gallons for 2013 is finalized as soon as possible.

As you know, EPA proposed raising the 2013 RFS2 volumetric requirement for biodiesel in June of 2011. The EPA made this recommendation after an extensive review demonstrating that the requirement is readily achievable in a sustainable manner, with significant benefits to the nation in terms of economic growth, national security and the environment.

The 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act (P.L. 110-140) establishes a number of criteria for evaluating the volumetric requirements under the RFS2 program, including: the energy security of the U.S., the cost to consumers of transportation fuel, the impact on the environment, and the impact on factors such as job creation and rural economic development.

The biodiesel industry has demonstrated its ability to meet its RFS2 requirements. In 2011, the domestic industry produced a record 1.1 billion gallons of biodiesel. Domestically-produced biodiesel will help reduce our dependence on imported petroleum, which costs our nation nearly \$1 billion every day. Expanding the biodiesel industry can also help spur economic recovery. For example, a study by environmental consulting company Cardno Entrix indicates that increasing biodiesel production from 1 billion gallons to 1.28 billion gallons would boost the U.S. Gross Domestic Product by \$1.1 billion and support more than 10,000 new jobs.

In 2007, Congress made a long-term policy determination that it was in the best interest of our nation to expand the use of renewable fuels by 2022. We remain committed to this long-term national energy goal, and believe that timely increases in the biodiesel volumetric requirement will send important signals to capital markets, and encourage new private-sector investment that will be critical to the development and commercialization of the next generation of advanced biofuels.

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In recognition of the significant benefits to our country from domestically-produced biodiesel, we ask that you finalize the 2013 volumetric requirements for biodiesel as proposed by the EPA.

Sincerely,



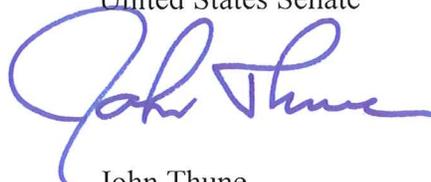
Kent Conrad
United States Senate



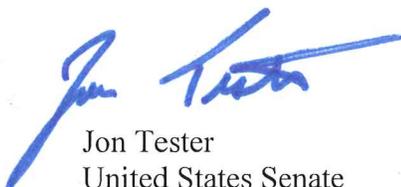
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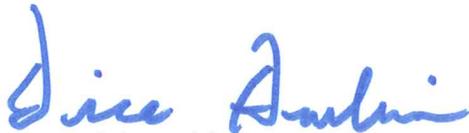
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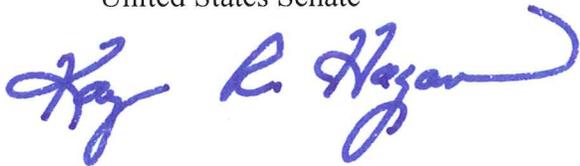
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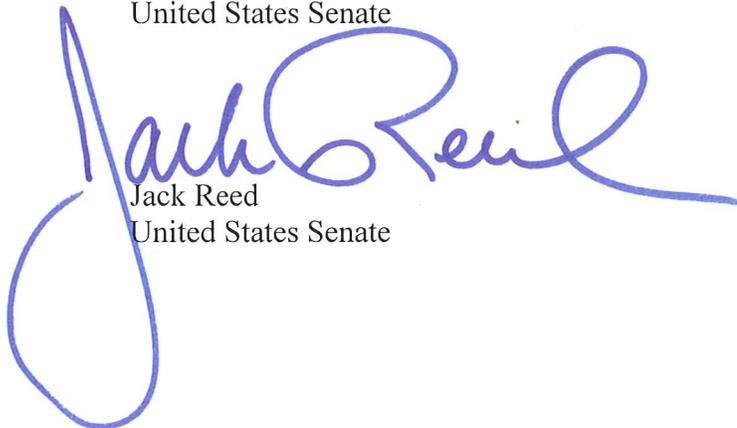
Tim Johnson
United States Senate



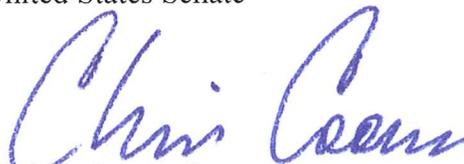
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