

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 24, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We write to express our concerns with some of the unintended consequences associated with the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and the damage it may have on the U.S. economy, if left unchanged. Accordingly, we support your recent efforts to avoid the blendwall by reducing the amount of ethanol in gasoline to below 10 percent.

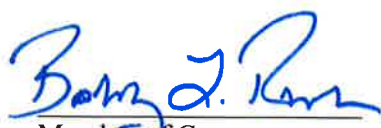
As you may know, more than 40 percent of the nation's corn crop is used for ethanol, an increase from nearly 15 percent when the RFS was created. The strong demand for ethanol has resulted in higher prices for corn and higher prices for feed and food, which was especially severe during last year's drought. As a result, last year, the average U.S. family of four faced a \$2,000 increase in food costs due to higher corn prices. To that end, as we embark upon a new year, we are faced with another unintended consequence associated with the RFS. While renewable fuel requirements are increasing yearly, gasoline demand in the U.S. is steadily declining.

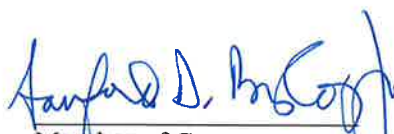
This dynamic has created the E10 blendwall - the point at which more renewable fuel is required to be blended than can be safely consumed in the United States, due to fundamental constraints imposed by fueling infrastructure and problems of gasoline engine incompatibility with increased ethanol blends. With a few exceptions, automobiles are built and warranted for a 10% ethanol blend, and the same goes for small engines, such as boats, lawnmowers, and motorcycles. Research by the Coordinating Research Council demonstrates that the engines of at least 5 million vehicles on the road today could be at risk of damage due to E15.

These unintended consequences associated with the RFS can be averted. We support your recent actions regarding the RFS and we ask that you continue to use your administrative authority to avoid the blendwall. By lowering the mandate down to below 10% in your final rule, the EPA will align the percentage with gasoline market conditions and reflect the concerns of the American people. Working together, we can ensure that the U.S. economy runs like a machine, creates and retains family-wage jobs in America, and helps to lower food costs for the American people at all economic levels. Your actions will also help to ensure that we continue to safeguard the environment, maintain consumer protection and improve the quality of life throughout our country.

We thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

  
Member of Congress

  
Member of Congress

  
Member of Congress

*Wm. Lacy Clay*  
Member of Congress

*Al Green*  
Member of Congress

*Yvette D. Clarke*  
Member of Congress

*Marcia L. Fudge*  
Member of Congress

*J. F. Scott*  
Member of Congress

*Steven Horsford*  
Member of Congress

*M. V. Frank*  
Member of Congress

*Ben Ray Lujan*  
Member of Congress

*Tommy Franks*  
Member of Congress

*John Lewis*