

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

August 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
H-204,
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

Demand for biofuels has declined more than 1.3 billion gallons since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The biofuels sector has suffered from the steep drop in fuel demand that occurred when schools, workplaces, churches and other public places shut were closed by stay-at-home orders. Many biofuels plants reduced production to curb losses, while others shut down entirely. Biofuels production is a major piece of the rural economy in our districts, and we urge you to explicitly include much-needed assistance for the sector in the next piece of coronavirus relief legislation.

In 2019, biofuels plants contributed \$43 billion to the U.S. economy and directly supported more than 68,000 jobs. This sector bolsters commodity prices for farmers who have lost markets from trade disputes through the production of clean-burning renewable fuels and important by-products such as hand sanitizer, livestock feed, and carbon-dioxide gas for use by the food and beverage industry. As a result of state mandated closures and stay at home orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the biofuels industry has already seen a reduction in demand for corn by over 500 million bushels. Biofuels producers must be eligible for assistance in order to ramp production up to pre-pandemic levels in order to mitigate the negative impacts that the industry has experienced as a result of the coronavirus.

We support language that would provide direct assistance for the biofuels sector, including language explicitly directing the Secretary of Agriculture to provide direct assistance to producers and processors of renewable fuels. For example, language requiring the Secretary to provide a per-gallon payment to producers for renewable fuels produced during the COVID-19 pandemic. This mandate from Congress is necessary to ensure that the United States Department of Agriculture has the statutory authority they deem necessary to provide aid to the biofuels sector, and to guarantee assistance for the farmers and plant workers. By providing this assistance, rural America will continue to reap long-term benefits of a strong biofuels economy.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



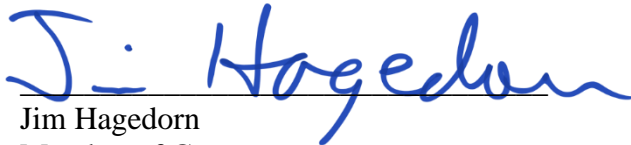
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



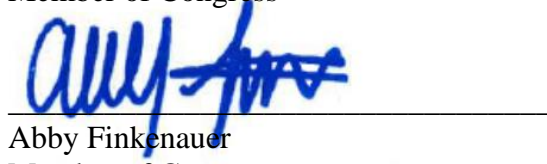
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



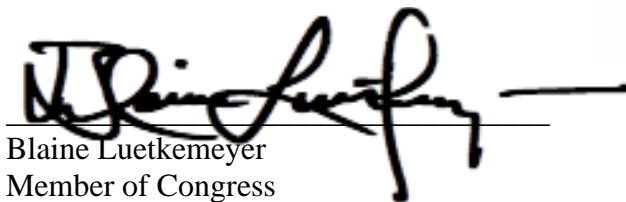
Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



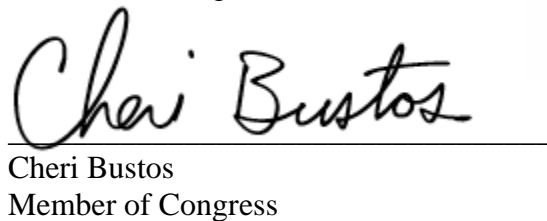
James R. Baird
Member of Congress



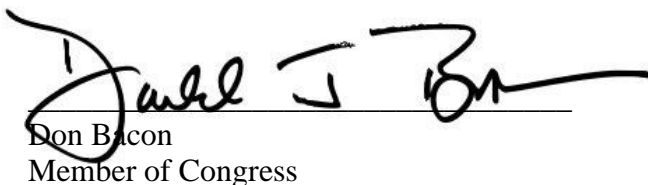
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



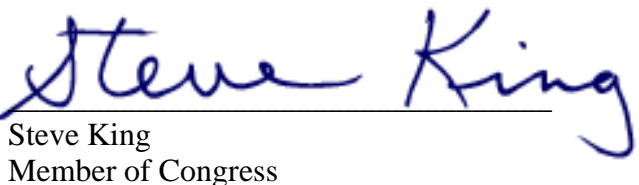
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



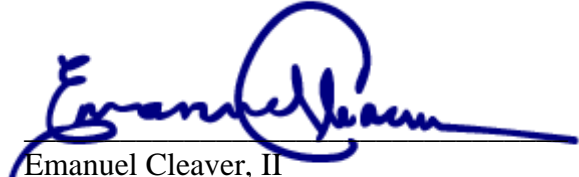
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



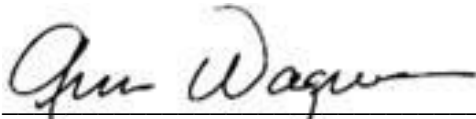
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



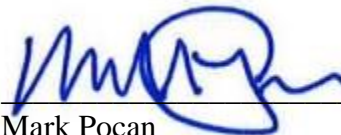
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



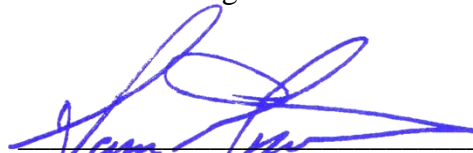
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

/S/André Carson

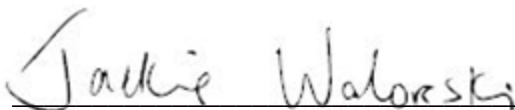
André Carson
Member of Congress



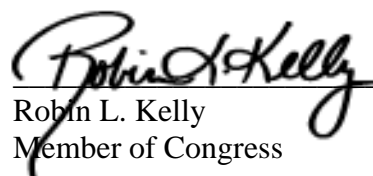
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress