

# Support a Reasonable Increase for the RFS Biodiesel Volume Requirement

**From: The Honorable Tom Latham**

**Sent By: [ian.manzano@mail.house.gov](mailto:ian.manzano@mail.house.gov)**

**Date: 11/13/2013**

Dear Colleague,

We ask that you join us in sending a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Agriculture, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) urging them to support a biodiesel renewable volume obligation as part of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) that is consistent with the current-year projections of 1.7 billion gallons of U.S. biodiesel production.

In mid-October, a draft EPA document was leaked that would set the 2014 biodiesel volume requirement at 1.28 billion gallons. Such a proposal would consequently lead to devastating permanent biodiesel plant closures and thousands of lost jobs, while casting a cloud of uncertainty over the industry's future investment. The EPA is expected to officially release a draft rule any day now.

The industry's projected current-year production of at least 1.7 billion gallons is far beyond initial expectations just five years ago and is supporting some 62,200 jobs and nearly \$17 billion in total economic impact. Made from an increasingly diverse mix of resources including recycled cooking oil, agricultural oils and animal fats, biodiesel is improving our energy security by reducing our dependence on imported petroleum diesel, while helping consumers by diversifying fuel supplies and creating competition in the fuels market.

Again, please join us in urging the Administration to stay on course with our nation's bipartisan goals of increasing the production of Advanced Biofuels that will create jobs, diversify our fuel supplies and strengthen our energy security.

If you would like to sign this letter, or if you have any questions, please contact Ian Manzano in Congressman Latham's office at [ian.manzano@mail.house.gov](mailto:ian.manzano@mail.house.gov) or Kaitlin Helms Wolf in Congressman McIntyre's office at [kaitlin.helms@mail.house.gov](mailto:kaitlin.helms@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

**Tom Latham**

Member of Congress

**Mike McIntyre**

Member of Congress

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November xx, 2013

Dear Administrator McCarthy, Secretary Vilsack, and Director Burwell:

We are writing to urge the Administration to support regulatory action regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) which is consistent with the current-year projections of 1.7 billion gallons of U.S. biodiesel production.

Setting the 2014 biodiesel volume requirement at lower levels could have a severe impact on the domestic biodiesel industry. Further, a continuation of 2013 levels paired with any reduction in advanced biofuel targets could have a similar damaging impact on the industry.

It is clear that biodiesel has been a great RFS success story. It has exceeded RFS targets in each year and is clearly poised to do so again in 2013. Biodiesel improves our energy security and reduces our dependence on imported petroleum diesel, while helping consumers by diversifying fuel supplies and by creating competition in the fuels market. The industry has had impressive growth, going far beyond initial expectations just five years ago, and is supporting some 62,200 jobs and nearly \$17 billion in total economic impact.

Biodiesel is the only Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated advanced biofuel to achieve commercial-scale production nationwide and the first to reach 1 billion gallons of annual production. Keeping the targets stagnant, rather than allowing for the biodiesel industry to grow, could reduce production by at least 400 million gallons – roughly 25 percent of production. This type of reduction could have very damaging repercussions. It could result in dozens of biodiesel facilities shutting down permanently and ceasing production. Such an outcome would lead to the loss of as many as 8,000 jobs. This would also jeopardize the future funding and investment in the U.S. biodiesel industry, which would severely impact the ability of those producers who did survive to expand and grow their businesses.

We think it is imperative that the EPA consider the many negative impacts which would come about as a result of limiting 2014 targets for biodiesel. An adverse decision would lead to an uncertain investment future for the industry, as well as a serious loss of jobs and the closure of many biodiesel facilities. We would strongly urge you to continue your support for this developing and fragile industry with a reasonable increase in the RFS volume requirement for 2014 and responsible growth in the future.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our request.

Sincerely,