

November 28, 2014

The Office of Senator Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Portman,

We write as representatives of Ohio's agricultural industry to ask for your continued support of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). This vital legislation has benefited thousands of constituents and businesses across the state. Allowing the RFS to be amended and opened for changes will negatively impact your state.

Since the opening of Ohio's first ethanol plant in 2008, the ethanol industry has created or supported over 13,000 jobs and pumped over \$536 million into Ohio's rural economy each year. Ohio's seventh ethanol plant opened in Coshocton earlier this year, creating another 50 direct jobs and opportunities for thousands of farmers. In the similar vein, Ohio's biodiesel industry has seen a network of new distributors and retailers set up shop in Ohio. Biodiesel has been a key contributor to injecting more into the farming economy. Biodiesel has added 71 cents per bushel to the value of soybeans, which added \$146 million to the Ohio economy last year. Additionally, demand for soybean oil has reduced the cost of soybean meal for Ohio's livestock farmers.

Most important is the impact these industries have on Ohio farmers. For many years the federal government provided direct payments to farmers. Ethanol and biodiesel now give farmers an additional path. The over 3,400 farmers who deliver corn to ethanol plants get the true value for their products, reducing the need to use farm programs.

The RFS plays a key role in providing the certainty and fuel market access that both the ethanol and biodiesel industries need to keep growing. The oil industry has a one hundred year head start on alternative fuels. They have used this advantage to create a monopoly on the fuel market and discourage retailers from carrying new fuels. Voting to end or amend the RFS would be a win for the status quo and limiting consumer choice.

In meetings with some of our organizations you have mentioned that some entities blame the RFS for rising food prices. **This argument is not backed by science or economics.** Study after study has consistently shown that the largest contributor to the price of food is the cost of transportation (i.e. oil).

As you are aware, corn prices have been low for some time and our recent record corn crop will ensure they remain low for the foreseeable future. Nothing disproves complaints of harm from the RFS more definitively than this extended period of low corn prices and ample grain stocks worldwide.

We ask that you stand strong in support of the RFS. You have consistently included alternative fuels and agriculture as key parts of your platform to get Ohioans back to work. We appreciate

your recognition of the importance of ethanol and biodiesel production to Ohio's economy.
Please do not support any efforts to amend or repeal the RFS.

Thank you,

Guardian Lima, LLC

Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association

Ohio Ethanol Producers Association

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

Ohio Farmers Union

Ohio Soybean Association

POET

The Andersons, Inc.

Three Rivers Energy, LLC

cc: Rob Lehman, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Rob Portman
Teri Geiger, State Director, Office of Senator Rob Portman
Kevin Hoggatt, Economic Development Director, Office of Senator Rob Portman
Steve Kittredge, Senior Energy Policy Advisor, Office of Senator Rob Portman
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Wes Fahrback, District Director, Office of Senator Rob Portman