

July 21, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joni Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Implementation of RFS Electric Pathway

Dear Senator Grassley, Senator Ernst and Congressman Loebsack:

We are writing to request your assistance on a long-delayed matter now awaiting action at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning electricity produced with biogas and an opportunity for our farm to participate in the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program.

As you may know, our beef cattle feedlot and farm is in Scott County, near Stockton, Iowa. As part of our business we generate electricity through a company we own with another partner (AgriReNew) that processes manure from our beef cattle in an anaerobic digester to produce biogas. In addition, we process other waste streams in our anaerobic digesters from several agricultural processing companies located in eastern Iowa. We use the biogas produced in our anaerobic digesters to fuel a combined heat and power generator (CHP) and sell the electricity to Interstate Power & Light (Alliant Energy).

Although the primary fuel in the RFS program has always been ethanol produced with corn, the EPA issued final regulations in 2014 categorizing electricity produced with biogas as an RFS fuel for use in electric vehicles. Accordingly, for the first time it appeared that farms like ours that generate electricity could participate in the RFS program. However, because EPA has still not activated the RFS "electric pathway," our farm and many others remain unable to participate in the RFS program.

Our hope is that EPA will implement the RFS electric pathway without further delay, and in a way that would allow our farm and others to participate in the RFS program and generate extra revenues from the electricity we produce. Because the economic viability of the digester we operate depends largely on electricity revenues, participation in the RFS program could help secure our ability to realize the other very important benefits of operating a digester: converting a problematic waste streams into a useful renewable source of energy, reducing odors that can occur with livestock production and processing, improving water quality and soil health.

In short, our farm, feedlot, and anaerobic digesters could benefit significantly from participation in the RFS program, and implementation of the electric pathway will support the goals of the President's Taskforce on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to advance renewable energy production in the rural landscape and build robust, sustainable rural communities for generations to come.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you work to ensure that the EPA activates the RFS electric pathway as soon as possible this year, so that our farm and others may finally have an opportunity to participate in and benefit from the RFS program.

If you have any questions about our farm or digester, please contact us directly. If you have any questions about the RFS electric pathway, please contact Jim Lemon of Bridge to Renewables, an RFS applicant that is assisting in this effort, at [202-810-4246](tel:202-810-4246) or by e-mail at jim.lemon@btr.energy.

We greatly appreciate your help on this matter and for your service to the people of Iowa!

Sincerely,



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Cc:

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