

August 17, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Make America Great Again

Dear Mr. President:

We write concerning a matter of significant national importance involving an existing component of the Renewable Fuel Standard ("RFS") program - the Electric Pathway - that has been held up at the Environmental Protection Agency for far too long.

Two dozen members of the U.S. House of Representatives from nine states have written to EPA urging the Agency to act on this opportunity. In addition, both chambers of Congress have passed Fiscal Year 2019 Interior Appropriations bill reports that encourage the Agency to act on the Electric Pathway. Family farmers from across America have testified at two EPA hearings over the past year, and have continuously engaged with the Agency directly since you took office. And yet, we still need your help. EPA has advised us that activating the Electric Pathway and helping farmers and rural communities is still not a priority, despite the goals you have set for your Administration.

As background, we collect and use biogas produced from manure, wastewater, food waste and other types of organic waste that is processed in anaerobic digester (AD) systems located at farms, community waste and wastewater treatment plants, and other facilities across the United States. The biogas is used to produce heat and generate electricity, some or all of which is sold onto the electric grid. Already in 2014, the EPA finalized regulations approving electricity produced this way as a cellulosic or advanced biofuel under the RFS program, and established a corresponding RFS fuel pathway -- the Electric Pathway.

Unfortunately, though the Pathway is in place and we are already producing electricity, we have not yet been able to participate because the Agency refuses to approve applications to do so. For four years, we have watched as other cellulosic and advanced biofuel producers benefit from the RFS program, while we have had to wait for EPA to enable us to do the same. The forgone revenues for our facilities are significant and have continued to grow, at the same time EPA has repeatedly acknowledged that significant shortages of cellulosic and advanced biofuels cause problematic market dynamics in the RFS program.

AD facilities are an innovative industry best practice, particularly in dairy and livestock agriculture. There is no other type of energy production - domestic or foreign, fossil or

renewable - that produces as many economic and environmental benefits for farmers and their rural communities. **One AD facility** can provide a farm with heat and renewable, base load electricity for its own needs, as well as additional revenue from the sale of electricity. An AD also helps a farm manage manure, protect water resources, reduce ammonia and hydrogen sulfide emissions associated with livestock production, minimize or eliminate harmful pathogens such as e.coli, divert organic waste streams from landfills, produce beneficial and valuable sources of nutrients and organic matter for crops, and create attainable STEM jobs and support rural development.

These benefits could be multiplied many times over with your intervention. About 250 dairy and livestock farms generate electricity with an AD today, where the positive impacts of the Electric Pathway will first be felt. The Department of Agriculture estimates that another 9,000 farms could build an AD given the right incentives, and thousands more could be built at wastewater treatment plants and waste processing facilities.

But AD facilities - and all the benefits and jobs they create - depend in large part on revenue from electricity sales, and in many cases that revenue has plummeted. That is why programmatic certainty and our participation in the RFS program is so important: the RFS Electric Pathway would provide access to an additional revenue stream for many farms and other facilities that operate AD systems, and it would encourage many more to build them.

Mr. President, your intervention is needed to sustain existing rural jobs and create thousands more. EPA action will mean we can finally receive credit for supplying RFS-approved biogas electricity to our nation's electric vehicle fleet. That is why we respectfully request your help to ensure that EPA acts on this matter this year. Please direct Acting Administrator Wheeler to follow through on your promise to America's rural communities, make the Electric Pathway a priority, and get it done.

Sincerely,

(The endorsers below are the owners and/or operators of the farms and/or AD facilities listed.)

Wisconsin

*John Jacobs, Green Valley Dairy, **Krakow, WI***

*Debbie Crave, Crave Brothers Farm and Farmstead Cheese, (Dairy) **Waterloo, WI***

*Jeff Rich, GL Dairy Biogas Project, (Gundersen Health System) **Middleton, WI***

*Jeff Rich, Sunnyside Digester, (Gundersen Health System) **Sun Prairie, WI***

*John Haeckel / Jessica Niekrasz, Clean Fuel Partners, (Dairy) **Dane, WI***

*Barry Bassett, Green Whey Energy, (Community Digester) **Turtle Lake, WI***

*Cody Heller, Heller Farms / Cow Poo (Dairy) **Alma Center, WI***

*Dr. Bob Nagel, Holsum Elm Dairy (Dairy) **Hilbert, WI***

*Dr. Bob Nagel, Holsum Irish Dairy (Dairy) **Hilbert, WI***

*JJ Pagel, Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy, (Dairy) **Kewaunee, WI***

*Josh Meissner, Norm-e-Lane Farms, **Chili, WI***

*Lee Jenson, Five Star Dairy Farm, (Dairy) **Elk Mound, WI***
*Dave Hischke, Sunrise Dairy, **Suring, WI***

Washington

*Ben Hansen, Farm Power Lynden, (Dairy) **Lynden, WA***
*Ben Hansen, Farm Power Rexville, (Dairy) **Mount Vernon, WA***
*Ben Hansen, Ranier Biogas, (Dairy) **Enumclaw, WA***
*Srirup Kumar, Ballard AD-25, (Food Waste), **Seattle, WA***
*Tim Murphy, Bainbridge AD-25, (Food Waste), **Bainbridge Island, WA***

Virginia

*Roy VanDerHyde, VanDerHyde Dairy (Dairy) **Chatham, VA***

Vermont

*Ronald Hill, Four Hills Farm, Bristol, **VT***

Pennsylvania

*Brett Reinford, Reinford Farms, (Dairy) **Mifflintown, PA***
*Richard Crone, Pine Hurst Acres, **Danville, PA***
*Gerald Zimmerman, Oak Hill Farm, **Nottingham, PA***
*Andrea Sensenig, Compass Farms, (Dairy) **Kirkwood, PA***

Oregon

*Ben Hansen, Farm Power Misty Meadow, **Tillamook, OR***
*Ben Hansen, Farm Power Tillamook, **Tillamook, OR***

Ohio

*Trent Stoller, GreenTop Acres, (Dairy) **Haviland, OH***
*Mel Kurtz, Collinwood Bioenergy, (Community Digester) **Cleveland, OH***
*Mel Kurtz, Three Creek Bioenergy, (Municipal WWTP) **Sheffield Village, OH***
*Mel Kurtz, Central Ohio Bioenergy, (Community Digester) **Columbus, OH***
*Mel Kurtz, Wooster Water Pollution Control Plant, (Municipal WWTP) **Wooster, OH***
*Mel Kurtz, Lime Lakes Energy, **Norton, OH***
*Mel Kurtz, Three Creek Bioenergy, **North Ridgeville, OH***
*Mel Kurtz, Buckeye Biogas, **Wooster, OH***
*Mel Kurtz, Zanesville Energy, (Community Digester) **Zanesville, OH***
*Mel Kurtz, Ringler Energy, **Ashley, OH***

New York

*Marianne Robinson, Sunnyside Farms, (Dairy) **Scipio Center, NY***
*Jigar Shah, Niagara Bioenergy, (Community Digester) **Wheatfield, NY***
*Jigar Shah, Buffalo Bioenergy, (Community Digester) **West Seneca, NY***
*Jigar Shah, Cayuga County Regional Digester, **Auburn, NY***
*Jason Burroughs, Aurora Ridge Dairy, LLC (Dairy) **Aurora, NY***

*Jon and Connie Patterson, Patterson Farms (Elm Road Dairy) **Auburn, NY***
*Christopher Noble, Noblehurst Farms, (Dairy) **York, NY***
*Hans Boxler, Jr., Boxler Dairy Farms, **Varysburg, NY***

Michigan

*Michael Geerlings, Geerlings Hillside Farms, (Swine) **Overisel, MI***
*Andy Austin, Brook View Dairy, (Dairy) **Freeport, MI***
*Mark Lucas, Scenic View Dairy, (Dairy) **Fennville, MI***
*Jigar Shah, Fremont Regional Digester, (Community Digester) **Fremont, MI***

Iowa

*Bryan Sievers, Sievers Family Farms, (Beef Cattle) **Stockton, IA***
*John McGrath, Amana Farms, (Beef Cattle) **Amana, IA***

Indiana

*Ryan Rogers, Homestead Dairy, **Plymouth IN***

Connecticut

*Brian Paganini, Quantum BioPower, (Community Digester) **Southington, CT***

California

*Daryl Maas, Maas Energy Works, Open Sky Ranch, **Riverdale, CA***
*Daryl Maas, Maas Energy Works, Van Steyn Dairy, **Elk Grove, CA***
*Daryl Maas, Maas Energy Works, Van Warmerdam Dairy, **Galt, CA***
*Daryl Maas, Maas Energy Works, GJ TeVelde Ranch, **Tipton, CA***
*Daryl Maas, Maas Energy Works, Pacific Rim Dairy, **Corcoran, CA***

CC:The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C., 20460

Cc: The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S.Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250