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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 14, 2018

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

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COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES
READINESS

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I have been encouraged by your efforts over the last year to find ways to support our nation's dairy farmers at a time when they most need our help. In order to advance your objectives, I have led a bipartisan group of my colleagues on work to convince the US Environmental Protection Agency to activate a small but important part of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) called the "electric pathway," which would allow dairy farmers to benefit from the RFS for the first time.

The electric pathway supports dairy farmers that generate baseload renewable electricity from manure by providing them access to a new revenue stream. The pathway would also reduce the price of RFS credits, thereby reducing the overall cost of compliance for the oil and gas industry and making it a true win-win. And unlike other potential changes to the RFS, activating the electric pathway does not require new rules or regulations, just administrative action from the Agency.

My colleagues and I have sent several letters to EPA explaining the opportunity and the history of our engagement (attached for your reference). I am concerned that with the change in leadership at EPA, approval of applications that will benefit dairy farmers will again be delayed. As you know, weeks and months may not seem like long to us here in Washington, but that time can dramatically impact small, family-owned farms.

I therefore write to humbly request you direct the Agency to approve applications under the electric pathway this summer, further making good on our promise to support agricultural communities.

Thank you for your help in this matter. I remain committed to continued partnership with you and to finding ways to accomplish our goals together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Gallagher".

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress