July 27, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As members of the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), we share your vision for decarbonizing the transportation fuels sector and we applaud your commitment to addressing climate change. We support your goals of achieving a 50 percent reduction in U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions economywide by 2050.

Low-carbon renewable fuels like ethanol are already helping our nation confront climate change by significantly reducing GHG emissions from the transportation sector. In fact, since 2008, the use of ethanol and other renewable fuels in the United States has prevented nearly 1 billion metric tons of GHG from entering the atmosphere.\(^1\)

Today’s ethanol already reduces GHG emissions by 52 percent, on average, when compared directly to gasoline.\(^2\) Furthermore, many of us are already producing advanced and cellulosic ethanol that is certified by the California Air Resources Board as providing a 65-75 percent GHG reduction compared to gasoline.\(^3\)

But given the urgency of the climate crisis and the need to reasonably decarbonize, we can—and must—do more. **Therefore, the producer members of the Renewable Fuels Association are committing today to the pursuit of the following carbon performance goals:**

- **By 2030,** ensure that ethanol reduces GHG emissions by at least 70 percent, on average, when compared directly to gasoline. This equates to a 33 percent reduction in ethanol’s average carbon footprint from 45 grams CO\(_2\)-equivalent per megajoule (g/MJ) today\(^4\) to about 30 g/MJ by 2030.

- **By 2050,** ensure that ethanol achieves net zero lifecycle GHG emissions, on average. As ethanol producers continue to adopt carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration (CCUS) and other low- and no-carbon technologies between 2030 and 2050, U.S. ethanol can achieve **net carbon neutrality**, on average, by mid-century or even sooner.

Ethanol’s carbon footprint continues to shrink rapidly, as new technology and innovation have improved the efficiency of the entire production process. In fact, a recent study by Department of Energy (DOE) scientists found that ethanol’s carbon footprint shrunk by 23 percent between...
While we are proud of these advances in efficiency and sustainability, many opportunities exist to deliver even greater GHG reductions in the near term.

In response to policies like the Renewable Fuel Standard, California Low Carbon Fuel Standard, and Oregon Clean Fuels Program, along with your recommitment to the Paris Agreement, the pace of low-carbon innovation and investment is accelerating in the renewable fuel sector. With the right policy signals, ethanol can achieve a net-zero carbon footprint in the years ahead, as the supply chain adopts CCUS technologies, uses more renewable electricity and biogas to power biorefineries, and expands carbon-efficient agricultural feedstock production practices. Innovative policies that encourage greater usage of renewable fuels will not only reduce the carbon footprint of our nation’s fuel supply, but they will also inspire agricultural communities to deploy climate-smart practices that sequester carbon on farms as well.

Today’s grain-based ethanol is already a low-carbon fuel that is helping to clean up our nation’s transportation fuels. But with smart policy measures, including a commitment to rapidly increasing the availability of low-cost flex-fuel vehicles, ethanol can do even more. It can serve as an affordable zero-emissions fuel for light-duty cars and trucks, while also helping to decarbonize medium- and heavy-duty vehicles⁹, aviation, marine, and stationary power generation. Importantly, the fuel storage and distribution infrastructure already in place across the country can support rapid expansion of low- and no-carbon ethanol usage in a broad array of applications with very little additional investment.

Mr. President, RFA’s members are committed to the goals of cutting ethanol’s carbon footprint by an additional one-third by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner. We look forward to working with your administration on the policy and regulatory actions—which include development of a national Clean Fuel Standard, support for CCUS, and deployment of more flex-fuel vehicles—that can make this ambitious vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Absolute Energy LLC  
St. Ansgar, Iowa  
Alto Ingredients Inc. – Pekin  
Pekin, Illinois

Ace Ethanol LLC  
Stanley, Wisconsin  
Alto Ingredients Inc. – Magic Valley  
Burley, Idaho

Adkins Energy  
Lena, Illinois  
Alto Ingredients Inc. – Columbia  
Boardman, Oregon

Aemetis Inc.  
Keyes, California  
Alto Ingredients Inc. – Stockton  
Stockton, California

Al-Corn Clean Fuel LLC  
Claremont, Minnesota  
Badger State Ethanol LLC  
Monroe, Wisconsin
Big River Resources LLC  
*West Burlington, Iowa*

Guardian Energy LLC  
*Janesville, Minnesota*

Calgren Renewable Fuels LLC  
*Pixley, California*

Guardian Lima LLC  
*Lima, Ohio*

Chippewa Valley Ethanol Co.  
*Benson, Minnesota*

Heartland Corn Products  
*Winthrop, Minnesota*

CHS Inc. – Annawan  
*Annawan, Illinois*

Highwater Ethanol LLC  
*Lamberton, Minnesota*

CHS Inc. – Rochelle  
*Rochelle, Illinois*

Husker Ag LLC  
*Plainview, Nebraska*

CIE  
*Marion, Indiana*

KAAPA Ethanol LLC  
*Minden, Nebraska*

Commonwealth Agri-Energy LLC  
*Hopkinsville, Kentucky*

KAAPA Ethanol Ravenna LLC  
*Ravenna, Nebraska*

Dakota Ethanol LLC  
*Wentworth, South Dakota*

Lincolnland Agri-Energy LLC  
*Palestine, Illinois*

E Energy Adams LLC  
*Adams, Nebraska*

Mid America Bio Energy & Commodities, LLC  
*North Platte, Nebraska*

East Kansas Agri-Energy LLC  
*Garnett, Kansas*

Mid-Missouri Energy LLC  
*Malta Bend, Missouri*

Fox River Valley Ethanol  
*Oshkosh, Wisconsin*

New Energy Freedom  
*Mason City, Iowa*

Golden Grain Energy LLC  
*Mason City, Iowa*

Parallel Products  
*Louisville, Kentucky*

Grain Processing Corp.  
*Muscatine, Iowa*

Parallel Products  
*Ontario, California*

Grain Processing Corp.  
*Washington, Indiana*

Quad County Corn Processors  
*Galva, Iowa*

Granite Falls Energy LLC  
*Granite Falls, Minnesota*

Redfield Energy LLC  
*Redfield, South Dakota*

Guardian Hankinson LLC  
*Hankinson, North Dakota*

Ringneck Energy LLC  
*Onida, South Dakota*
Show Me Ethanol LLC  
*Carrollton, Missouri*

Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy LLC  
*Council Bluffs, Iowa*

Trenton Agri Products LLC  
*Trenton, Nebraska*

West Coast Waste Inc.  
*Madera, California*

Western New York Energy LLC  
*Medina, New York*

Western Plains Energy LLC  
*Oakley, Kansas*

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cc:
Michael S. Regan, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor

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5. Id.
6. See, for example, ClearFlame Engine Technologies, which has developed diesel-style heavy-duty engines that run on low-carbon ethanol. [https://www.clearflameengines.com/](https://www.clearflameengines.com/)