

August 27, 2019

President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable President of the United States of America:

I represent thousands of hard working, financially stressed farmers, many of whom voted for you believing your deregulatory policies would help open up markets and enhance competition for agriculturally-derived products. Instead, your trade war has decimated global markets and you have allowed your Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue its illegal policies that favor oil interests and block the use of clean burning, high octane, low carbon ethanol in the world's largest gasoline market: the United States.

We understand that you must contend with a gridlocked Congress and that legislative solutions are not available. However there is good news: you can solve this problem with a stroke of your Presidential pen. On behalf of America's struggling farmers we respectfully urge you to direct EPA to enforce the mandatory provision of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The CAA requires reducing the amount of toxic carcinogens in gasoline that refiners synthesize from crude oil to increase octane. The CAA has been ignored for decades. Safe, renewable and domestically produced ethanol from the heartland can replace these harmful toxics and provide all octanes the refining industry needs. Department of Energy experts have confirmed that E30 blends are superior to conventional gasoline in terms of performance and emissions. They would also save consumers billions of dollars at the pump. This comes at a time when just last week the United States imported hundreds of millions of gallons of octane additives from India, the Philippines, and South Korea; yet Midwest ethanol plants that can produce a far superior source of octane are going out of business.

This action would benefit the rural economy by fulfilling the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) targets and unleashing market forces to convert surplus corn starch into valuable, high octane ethanol. Ethanol's valuable protein products are highly sought after by livestock producers in the United States and abroad. Oil imports would be substantially reduced as would the nation's trade deficit.

Your directive would have yet another major plus: it would protect America's children and other vulnerable groups from the invisible but deadly carcinogens caused by gasoline aromatics. That's why a veto-proof, bipartisan majority in both the Senate and House passed the Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSAT) rule in the 1990 Clean Air Act. EPA has refused to comply with Congressional intent ever since.

Mr. President, please instruct your EPA to finally do its job and unleash the United States ethanol industry's full potential. This is completely consistent with your de-regulatory emphasis on energy security, helping the auto industry by giving them higher octane low carbon fuels, and bolstering the economy.

Let America's farms protect America's cities and make America even greater.



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