

Davis, House Republicans Urge President Biden To Keep Renewable Fuel Standard Promises

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL) and a group of House Republicans, including co-chairs of the House Biofuels Caucus, are urging President Biden to keep his promise on upholding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) by not decimating the demand for billions of gallons of ethanol. From their [letter](#) to President Biden: “If your Administration makes the unprecedented move to reopen the finalized 2020 RVO, and strip the demand for billions of gallons, the industry will certainly be devastated. As you stated, ‘Lip service won’t make up for the nearly four years of retroactive damage that’s decimated our economy and forced ethanol plants to shutter.’ If these rumors are correct, demand for over 5 billion gallons of renewable, clean fuels will be lost. “Biofuels production is a major piece of the rural economy in our districts, therefore, we strongly urge you to direct your EPA to reconsider the rule to ensure that your Administration makes good on these promises to ‘fight for family farmers and revitalize rural economies...by ushering in a new era of biofuels.’” When he was running for president, Biden [stated](#) Trump-era RFS waivers were “harmful” and called for “setting strong levels for 2021.” Now, it’s again being [reported](#) that President Biden’s Environmental Protection Agency is “considering big cuts to biofuel blending mandates for 2020, 2021 2022.” This past June, it was [reported](#) the Biden Administration was “considering ways to provide relief to U.S. oil refiners from biofuel blending mandates.” You can find a copy of the letter [here](#) and the full text of the letter below. Co-leading the letter with Davis are Reps. Adrian Smith (R-NE), Dusty Johnson (R-SD), Ashley Hinson (R-IA), Michelle Fischbach (R-MN), and Randy Feenstra (R-IA). Also signing the letter are Reps. Darin LaHood (R-IL), Tom Emmer (R-MN), Ann Wagner (R-MO), Tracey Mann (R-KS), Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D. (R-IA), Jim Hagedorn (R-MN), Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), James Comer (R-KY), Ron Estes (R-KS), Jake LaTurner (R-KS), James R. Baird (R-IN), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Sam Graves (R-MO), Donald J. Bacon (R-NE), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), and Mike Bost (R-IL).

The full letter is below:

Dear President Biden,

We are deeply disappointed by the rumors that indicate your Administration is reversing course on its promises as it relates to upholding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). During your campaign, just over a year ago, you [said](#) that former President Donald J. Trump “could have made explicit his imperative to stand with American farmers by reversing harmful waivers and setting strong levels for 2021,” and yet, we understand that the forthcoming Renewable Volumes Obligation (RVO) will cut the demand for more combined gallons of ethanol than all gallons cut due to Small Refinery Exemptions (SREs) issued by the prior Administration.

If your Administration makes the unprecedented move to reopen the finalized 2020 RVO, and strip the demand for billions of gallons, the industry will certainly be devastated. As you stated, “Lip service won’t make up for nearly four years of retroactive damage that’s decimated our trade economy and forced ethanol plants to shutter.” If these rumors are correct, demand for over 5 billion gallons of renewable, clean fuels will be lost.

Biofuels production is a major piece of the rural economy in our districts, therefore, we strongly urge you to direct your EPA to reconsider the rule to ensure that your Administration makes good on these promises to “fight for family farmers and revitalize rural economies... by ushering in a new era of biofuels.”

Both oil refiners and ethanol refiners were hurt by decreased demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and while we hope that markets will continue to rebound, it is now more important than ever to uphold the law and ensure our domestic biofuels producers have certainty through fulfilling the statutory obligation of 15 billion gallons of conventional ethanol, annually, along with a strong overall RVO.

Given the challenges facing our famers from all sides on this issue, it is imperative that your Administration choose to stand with American farmers. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that our biofuels producers are once again prioritized through a strong RVO, and that the law is upheld. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,