



AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY.



FreedomWorks



AMERICAN COMMITMENT



THE AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION

August 14, 2013

Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member

Dear Congressmen Upton and Waxman:

We commend you for organizing a thorough review of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program based on the Committee's five carefully-researched White Papers and two hearings.

In your deliberation on reform legislation, we encourage you to consider an issue that has received almost no attention to date: the basic incompatibility of the RFS with the tenets of a free society.

The RFS literally compels one industry to purchase, process, and sell other industries' products. Such compulsion is anathema to basic American notions of justice and equality under law.

A simple thought experiment makes this clear. Imagine the howls from RFS supporters if Congress were to compel corn farmers to sell annually-increasing volumes of wheat, soybeans, or rice. Or imagine the outcry if Congress imposed on corn farmers a 15-year plan establishing volumetric targets for the purchase of certain types of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, or harvesting machinery.

Corn growers would no doubt protest that in a free society no business should be compelled to buy or market the products of another or assume the investment risks of another. They would be right.

The implication for the RFS debate is obvious. If corn farmers and ethanol distillers want to compete in the motor fuel market, they should do so with their own capital and at their own risk.

The RFS creates a system of special privilege and, for that reason alone, should be abolished.

We respectfully ask that you take this fundamental consideration into account when developing legislation to reform the RFS program.

Sincerely,

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American Commitment
American Conservative Union
American Energy Alliance
Americans for Prosperity
Americans for Tax Reform
Competitive Enterprise Institute
Freedom Action
Freedom Works
Frontiers of Freedom
National Taxpayers Union