



### **STATEMENT BY THE FUELING AMERICAN JOBS COALITION**

**May 7, 2020** – *The Fueling American Jobs Coalition released the following statement in response to the farm state Senators letter released today by Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst:*

“Today, a contingent of farm state Senators released a letter that, in its essence, acknowledges the fundamental premise of why Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) waivers should be granted to the states of the five Governors who recently requested them.

The Senators claim that the RFS ‘cuts reliance on foreign fuels,’ yet the logic of their own letter points to exactly the opposite conclusion. The letter concedes that 46 percent of capacity has been idled during the current crisis. If the overall renewable volume obligation (RVO) is nevertheless held steady, the RFS will simply be converted into an import mandate.

In the United States, ethanol plants were thought capable of producing 16+ billion gallons. The biofuels industry says 8 billion gallons of that amount has been taken off line, meaning that they can only produce 8 billion. Yet they also say that no relief should be granted pursuant to the aforementioned letters from the five state Governors, even during the current crisis. If the RVO remains at the blendwall, even assuming reduced demand due to the pandemic, that would necessitate 12 billion gallons in ethanol—4 billion gallons more than they admit they can produce. The inevitable result: that 4 billion gallons above domestic production would have to be imported into the United States from foreign sources, turning both energy security and climate arguments inside out.

As University of Illinois agriculture economist Scott Irwin tweeted a few weeks ago, ‘Current circumstances probably match the intended purpose of that [RFS] waiver provision as well as it ever will.’ We concur, and urge the Environmental Protection Agency to follow the Governors’ lead and expeditiously grant the waivers for the five states requesting them.”

*The Fueling American Jobs Coalition is a coalition of union workers, mom & pop gas station owners, small retailers, and independent American oil refiners fighting for a commonsense fix to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) flawed Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The need for significant reform has only grown over the past few years as the cost of purchasing Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) to comply with the RFS has grown increasingly volatile, threatening some refiners’ survival. For additional information, visit [www.fuelingusjobs.com](http://www.fuelingusjobs.com).*