

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

A petition submitted by the Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri Corn Growers Associations and the Illinois Renewable Fuels Association has been brought to our attention requesting the bifurcation of Docket Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0161. We write in support of this petition and believe that this recommendation provides EPA with positive guidance to move ahead with the rule for the Renewable Fuels Standard II (RFS-2) program while verifiable data and consistent models regarding international land use change can be developed.

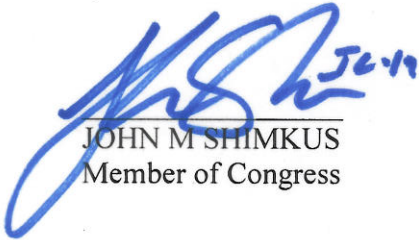
We believe that accelerated development, production and use of renewable fuels are essential to increasing energy security and improving the economy. The methodology ultimately used by EPA in crafting RFS-2 will have a significant impact on the success of the program. Currently, there are no widely accepted methodologies for calculating international land use changes. Land use changes result from many forces, including population growth, urbanization, interest in extraction of existing lumber or mineral resources, and in general the continually changing economics of competing land use alternatives.

It seems the country would be best served to wait until there is extensive data with the development of models that are agreed upon by a group of scientists and experts that will better be able to identify what, if any, information exists that show the effects of international indirect land use changes. We believe that international land use should be separated into a different docket for its own consideration and, at the very least, be given five years of further research.

Finalizing the rule for RFS-2 is going to be challenging and we believe the impact it will have on our economy and national security is too important not to be founded on sound

science and complete research. We respectfully request that you bifurcate this docket as is consistent with EPA precedent.


Sincerely,



JOHN M SHIMKUS
Member of Congress



TIM JOHNSON
Member of Congress



AARON SCHOCK
Member of Congress