

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 29, 2007

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate

Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate

Honorable John Dingell  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee

Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
Chairman  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Dear Leaders:

As you complete work on energy legislation that will give the U.S. a new direction towards energy independence and help fight global warming, we urge you to consider some concerns when crafting a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). We believe that this legislation can advance our nation's energy independence without compounding our hunger and environmental challenges. In particular, we urge you to make the development of bio-fuels from crop wastes, wood wastes, perennial grasses and other non-food crops the centerpiece of a new and expanded RFS, and we further urge you to link incremental increases in bio-fuels from both non-food crops and food crops to potential impacts on domestic and international food prices, feed prices, and environmental health.

We have the opportunity to jumpstart the cellulosic industry by making aggressive demands through the RFS and ensuring that we move towards a cleaner transportation system for generations to come. According to the EPA, cellulosic ethanol has an approximately 90 percent lifecycle green house gas emission reduction when compared to gasoline.

As you know, the current RFS has unleashed unprecedented development in ethanol, reducing America's dependence on foreign sources of gasoline. Indeed, the production of ethanol is outpacing the current RFS. Americans have stepped up to this challenge -- new technologies that develop cellulosic biofuels are growing by the week.

Rapid expansion of ethanol made from corn and other food crops has also created new unforeseeable challenges, including rising food prices, rising animal feed prices, heightened competition for water, water pollution, and the loss of grasslands and other valuable wildlife habitats. US food prices have risen well above the Consumer Price

Index. Rising crop prices caused in part by the current RFS have contributed to higher consumer prices for staples such as eggs, dairy, and meat. While we support efforts to reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of energy, we are concerned a major increase in ethanol production from food crops such as corn could hurt those Americans in greatest need of assistance and who are least able to weather rising food and energy prices. Any package that is sent to the President must include guarantees for the use of cellulosic fuels within the RFS.

We urge you to craft an RFS that strongly encourages the development of bio-fuels from non-food crops. The development of advanced forms of biofuels will have a lesser impact on food crops because they have the potential to provide a higher energy yield per acre. Congress should minimize the impact on food prices and the environment by ensuring that high efficiency crops are utilized to fulfill the requirements of any RFS mandated by the government.

We strongly support your efforts to reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of energy and to promote the domestic production of bio-fuels and look forward to working with you to craft an RFS that meets Americas' energy, economic, and environmental needs.

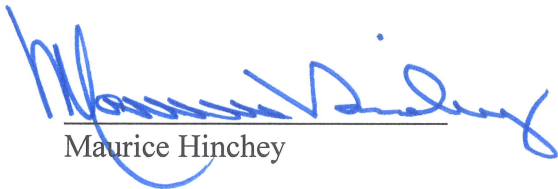
Sincerely,

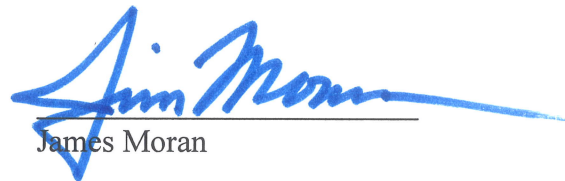
  
Pete Stark

  
G.K. Butterfield

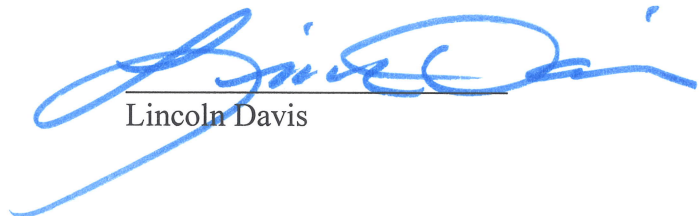
  
Jay Inglee

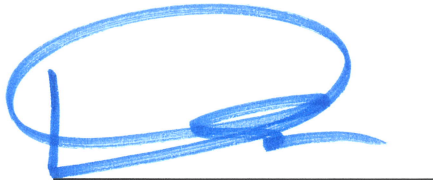
  
Kristen Gillibrand

  
Maurice Hinchey

  
James Moran

  
Marion Berry

  
Lincoln Davis

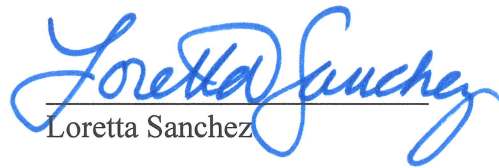
  
David Wu

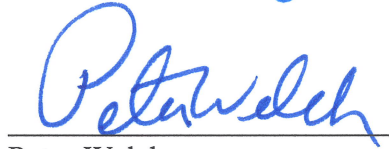
  
Mike Honda

  
Dennis Kucinich

  
Zoe Lofgren

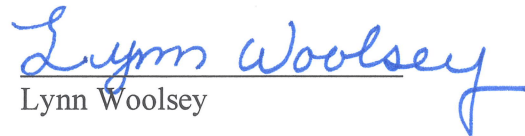
  
Raul Grijalva

  
Loretta Sanchez

  
Peter Welch

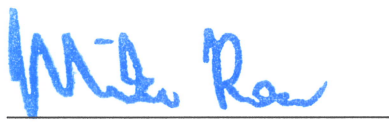
  
Diana DeGette

  
Jim Matheson

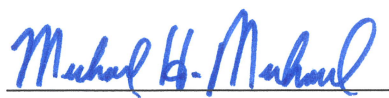
  
Lynn Woolsey

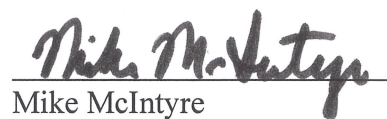
  
Brad Miller

  
David Price

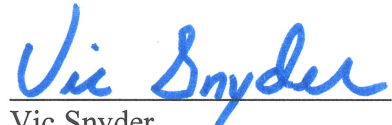
  
Mike Ross

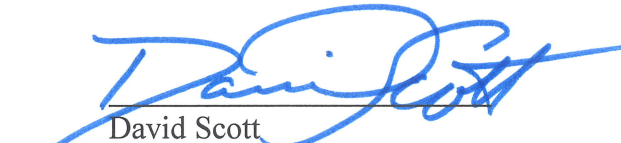
  
Bennie Thompson


  
Michael Michaud

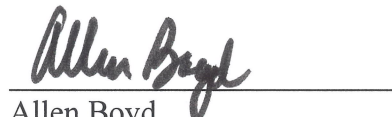
  
Mike McIntyre

  
James McGovern

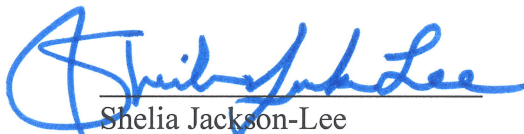
  
Vic Snyder


  
David Scott

  
Melvin Watt

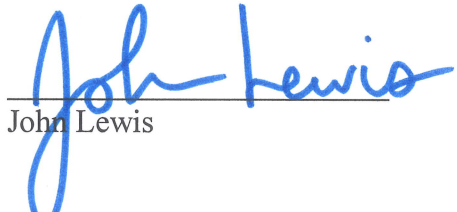
  
Allen Boyd

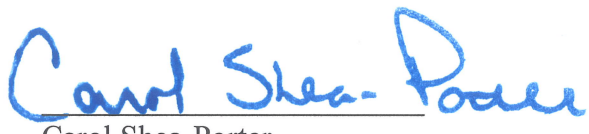
  
Adam Schiff

  
Shelia Jackson-Lee

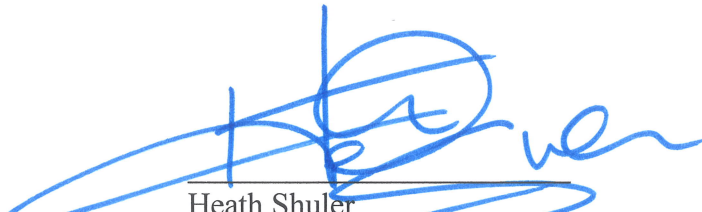
  
William Jefferson

  
Henry Cuellar

  
John Lewis

  
Carol Shea-Porter

  
Grace Napolitano

  
Heath Shuler

  
John Spratt

  
Tom Udall

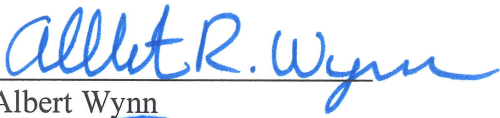
  
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick



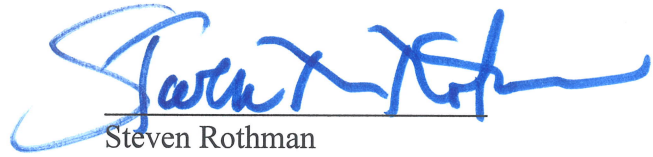
Michael Arcuri



Rush Holt



Albert Wynn



Steven Rothman



Edolphus Towns



Bob Etheridge