

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided USDA with additional resources to support farm income and prices during this economic downturn. The CARES Act included a reimbursement of \$14 billion to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), and \$9.5 billion for the Secretary to respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19. As the U.S. Department of Agriculture prepares to address financial hardship in agriculture, we urge you to use funds from the CARES Act to provide direct relief to the biofuels industry.

Demand for fuel is declining as states implement stay-at-home orders and discourage travel. This sudden shift in demand is worsening market conditions to the point ethanol plants are halting production. The biofuels industry is a vital market for the commodities our farmers produce, and USDA must take immediate action to ensure plants can retain skilled workers and continue production when market conditions improve.

The biofuels sector provides a direct and significant boost to the value of corn and soybeans. Ethanol plants purchase two out of every five bushels of U.S. corn and biodiesel producers use over 8 billion pounds of soybean oil a year. Ethanol plants produce dried distillers grains (DDGs) as a byproduct, providing livestock farmers with a low-cost, high-protein component of animal feed. To assist with the response to COVID-19, some ethanol and biofuels plants have volunteered to produce hand sanitizer and disinfectant products to address nationwide shortages. And, ethanol plants produce high purity carbon dioxide that is critical for medical facilities and food processing. The biofuels sector plays a large role in the livelihood of America's commodity and livestock producers, and biofuels plants are major employers in many rural communities.

USDA should take immediate action to stabilize the biofuels industry with resources provided by the CARES Act. We look forward to working with you on this issue as USDA assists producers through this challenging time. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



Dave Loebach  
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

Steve Watkins  
Member of Congress

Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Mike Turner  
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

Ron Estes  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress

Greg Pence  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress

Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress

Jim Banks  
Member of Congress