



## SUPPORT FLAKE AMENDMENT #3047 TO STOP WASTEFUL ETHANOL BLENDER PUMP SPENDING

February 2, 2016

Dear Senator,

On behalf of Taxpayers for Common Sense, we urge you to **support Senator Jeff Flake's (R-AZ) amendment (#3047) to the Energy Policy and Modernization Act of 2015 to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from using the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to fund ethanol blender pumps.**

In the 2014 farm bill, Congress [explicitly rejected](#) attempts by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to use Rural Energy for America Program funds to pay for blender pumps. Nevertheless, this summer Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack used \$100 million in CCC funds to support blender pumps. This program, known as the "Biofuels Infrastructure Project," has never received legislative authorization and simply continues an activity that was expressly prohibited by Congress.

The ethanol industry has already received billions in [federal subsidies](#) over the last 30 years. These supports have taken the form of various tax credits and funding through the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program and the Department of Transportation's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, which received \$6.8 billion for 2013-2015. The Renewable Fuel Standard requires oil and gas companies to blend increasing amounts of biofuels (which are more than 80 percent corn-based ethanol) with gasoline each year through 2022.

Taxpayers for Common Sense awarded Secretary Vilsack the [Golden Fleece Award](#) in July for his attempt to further subsidize blender pumps through the CCC. We urge you to **support Senator Flake's amendment to prevent Secretary Vilsack from spending \$100 million to subsidize ethanol blender pumps.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Ry Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line through the middle.

Ryan Alexander  
President