

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2017

Mr. Christopher Grundler
Director, Office of Transportation and Air Quality
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW | MC 6401A
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Grain Sorghum Oil Biodiesel Pathway Petition

Dear Mr. Grundler:

On behalf of the sorghum farmers from each of our respective states, we write to request that the EPA move to expeditiously approve a pathway for the production of biofuels from grain sorghum oil under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS).

Sorghum is primarily grown in arid regions where limited water supplies can present challenges to other grains, making it an important crop for many of the farmers we represent. In 2016, about 6.8 million acres of sorghum were planted across the country. Sorghum production is projected to be almost 500 million bushels this year, with nearly 25 percent of the bushels being used for the production of biofuels.

As you know, on July 29, 2016, a renewable fuel pathway petition was submitted to your office by the National Sorghum Producers (NSP) for the production of biofuels from grain sorghum oil. Subsequent to the July submission, a request was made for supplemental data, which was provided on January 18, 2017. Under law, a petition can be handled expeditiously with an approval letter when the feedstock meets the criteria and is equivalent to an approved feedstock, such as corn oil in this instance.


Several grain sorghum ethanol production facilities have already installed the technology necessary to separate sorghum oil from distiller's grains. However, because sorghum oil is not yet approved to produce biofuels, it is at a two-cent per pound disadvantage compared to corn oil. For these facilities to provide a competitive price to sorghum farmers, it is important that a pathway for producing biofuels from this oil be approved.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and ask that you provide our offices with timely updates as to the agency's progress in considering the petition.

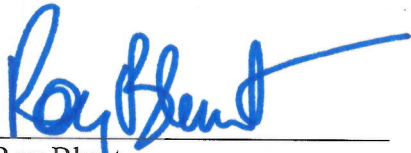
Sincerely,



Jerry Moran
Jerry Moran
United States Senator



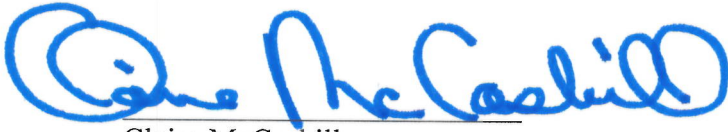
Roger Marshall
Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



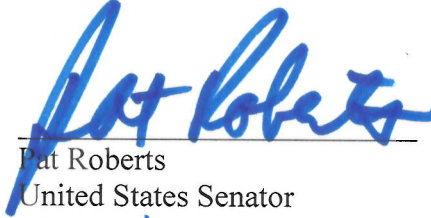
Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



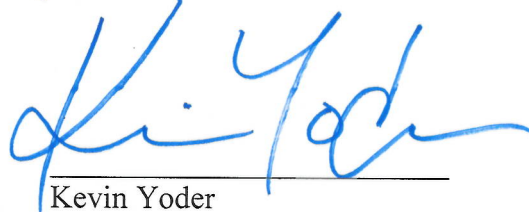
Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



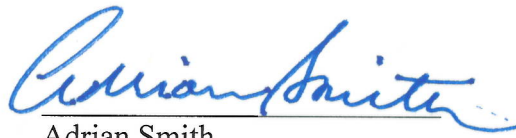
Benjamin Sasse
United States Senator



Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress



Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins, CPA
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress