



Illinois Corn Growers Association

ilcorn.org

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

Here is an urgent update and action request on the Renewable Fuel Standard Renewable Identification Number—RFS RIN—issue.

News leaked out of Washington that President Trump has scheduled another meeting on RINs, likely at the request of Senator Ted Cruz. That meeting is scheduled for this coming Tuesday, May 8. USDA Secretary Perdue and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt are expected to attend, along with Iowa Senators Grassley and Ernst and oil supporting Senators Cruz and Toomey.

While this meeting could be an opportunity to make the President's April 12 commitment on RVP firmer and move it forward, it is also viewed as one last chance for Senators Cruz and Toomey to push a RIN price cap or other priorities for refiners. **WE OPPOSE RINs CAPS AND OTHER METHODS TO LIMIT RIN ENFORCEMENT AND WE OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO DISMANTLE THE RFS.**

We understand Secretary Perdue is in a good position to be an advocate for agriculture, and he has made solid comments on RVP and the harm of the EPA refinery exemptions in public comments in recent Congressional hearings. However, we would like to send a reminder to the President about where agriculture stands on these issues, as well as provide grassroots back-up to Secretary Perdue. Senators Grassley and Ernst have indicated that the President needs to understand that this isn't an Iowa-only issue.

Your calls, emails, and tweets through these last two months have made a difference in the process. We need you to please, engage on this issue again, to protect against actions that would decrease ethanol demand, decrease corn demand, and benefit the oil industry.

Please call the White House comment line and leave a message for the President. The phones are staffed by volunteers and are only open from **8am to 3pm central time, Monday-Friday. We need you to make this call today, Monday, or before 1pm on Tuesday.**

The number is [202-456-1111](tel:202-456-1111). Do not press any numbers on your keypad. Stay on the line and wait for an operator. Please note that the line may be busy or it may be an extended wait to speak with one of the volunteer operators.

Tell President Trump that economics are tough in farm country right now and you can't afford to lose ethanol markets to benefit oil refineries. Tell the president that you need increased market access for ethanol, and that any plan to devalue the RFS doesn't work for you.

We need you to thank Secretary Perdue to reinforce his stance in support of farmers. Call USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's hotline and leave a message for him. Dial [\(202\) 720-2791](tel:202-720-2791) **press option 2** and leave a message.

Thank Secretary Perdue for his commitment to rural America and the RFS specifically. Remind him that your farm's profitability depends on market access, and that includes ethanol. Tell the Secretary that you appreciate his support and continued pushback on EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's plans that hurt farm country and benefit oil refineries.

As you know, this Administration remains very active on social media. Please use your Twitter account to reinforce the same messages to President Trump and Secretary Perdue. Sample tweets are below.

- a. President @realDonaldTrump thank you for your continued support of farmers and rural America. With net farm income declining, your commitment to RVP is imperative. Follow through with your promise. #RFSworks
- b. President @realDonaldTrump keep your promise to farmers and rural communities. Being able to sell higher blends of ethanol all year is important to the livelihood of America's corn farmers. #RFSworks
- c. Thank you @SecretarySonny for your work to defend corn farmers and the RFS against attacks from Big Oil. Farm income is declining. Rural America can't afford to lose ethanol markets. #RFSworks
- d. ***THE MOST VIEWED TWEETS ARE VIDEOS*** upload a video to Twitter of yourself verbally making these same points and then tag @realDonaldTrump and use the #RFSworks hashtag.

Thank you for your continued engagement on this issue. Your voice is important! For more background on this issue, please see the points below for any conversations you may have in your community or with elected officials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aron Carlson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aron Carlson
ICGA President

RINS ISSUE CONVERSATION POINTS

- Farmers appreciate President Trump's April 12 commitment that his Administration would move forward with fixing regulations to allow for year-round sales of ethanol blends greater than 10 percent, such as E15.
- Providing this RVP parity has been a priority for agriculture and is also a solution to refiners' concerns about RIN values.
- To follow through on his commitment to agriculture, we ask that President Trump move forward with removing this regulatory barrier. Farm income is declining for a sixth year; we need President Trump to follow through. Agriculture cannot support talk without action.
- EPA has already granted extensive RFS volume waivers to small refiners behind closed doors with no transparency, taking away at least 1.6 billion gallons of biofuel demand.
- These exemptions have effectively created the RIN price control sought by refiners, providing a large benefit to refiners at the expense of farmers.
- We support real solutions, such as RVP parity for higher blends, and call on EPA to stop circumventing President Trump's support of agriculture with waivers to refiners.
- Urge President Trump to maintain support for the RFS and rural America – rural America cannot afford anything less.