

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

Ranking Member Don Beyer (D-VA)
Subcommittee on Oversight

The EPA Renewable Fuel Standard Mandate
Joint Subcommittee Hearing

July 23, 2015

Thank you Chairmen Weber and Loudermilk for holding today's hearing and thank you to the witnesses for testifying.

The greatest challenge of this generation – climate change – requires innovative solutions if we ever hope to make a meaningful difference. It requires us to look at every aspect of our energy production and consumption. We must find ways to end our dependence on fossil fuels and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

The Renewable Fuel Standard has helped to push the technological limits and the capacity of industry to innovate our transportation fuels. In the past ten years we have seen increasing production of biofuels from both corn ethanol and advanced biofuels. This increase has come with considerable advancements in how corn ethanol is produced, improving production efficiencies while decreasing both costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

While there is much more to be done, I am hopeful for the potential in advanced biofuels. The Renewable Fuel Standard was designed to integrate all biofuels into our fuel supply and lay the groundwork for the growth and development of advanced biofuels with at least a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to that of conventional gasoline. I am interested in hearing more about the advancements in this area and where we can expect biofuels to be in the next ten years.

All of this does not go without saying that there have been challenges. The Environmental Protection Agency recently issued volumetric requirements for 2014, 2015, and 2016, after missing the statutory deadline two years in a row. While inundated with public comments during the proposal process, it does not excuse this lengthy delay. The agency has issued waivers for the required cellulosic biofuels and plans to do so again. I hope the proposed volumetric obligations can be finalized by the November 30th deadline.

With a wide ranging body of research looking at every aspect of production and a range of stakeholders that have advocated for almost every different scenario available, we as lawmakers are left with difficult decisions to make. I hope we can continue to educate ourselves with additional hearings in order to inform our decisions on America's energy future. In particular, I look forward to hearing from DOE and EPA on this topic.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.