

Senate Resolution 101 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY RAGAN, ANDERSON, BEALL, BEHN, BERTRAND, BLACK,
BOETTGER, BOLKCOM, BOWMAN, BRASE, BREITBACH,
CHAPMAN, CHELGREN, COURTNEY, DANIELSON, DEARDEN,
DIX, DOTZLER, DVORSKY, ERNST, FEENSTRA, GARRETT,
GREINER, GRONSTAL, GUTH, HART, HATCH, HOGG,
HORN, HOUSER, JOCHUM, JOHNSON, KAPUCIAN, MATHIS,
McCOY, PETERSEN, QUIRMBACH, ROZENBOOM, SCHNEIDER,
SCHOENJAHN, SEGEBART, SENG, SINCLAIR, SMITH,
SODDERS, TAYLOR, WHITVER, WILHELM, ZAUN, and
ZUMBACH

1 A Resolution urging the United States government to
2 renew its commitment to farmers, lower fuel prices,
3 and the environment by supporting a robust and
4 sustainable renewable fuel standard.

5 WHEREAS, in accordance with the federal policy
6 including the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No.
7 109-58, the United States government has demonstrated
8 its commitment to the long-term policy of increasing
9 the production of clean renewable fuels according
10 to a renewable fuel standard (RFS), by enabling the
11 increased domestic production and use of renewable
12 fuels, which include renewable biofuels such as
13 ethanol, biodiesel, and cellulosic and advanced
14 biofuels; and

15 WHEREAS, the RFS provides the foundation for
16 reducing this nation's dependence on foreign sources
17 of oil, reducing the price of transportation fuels,
18 reducing transportation fuel emissions, increasing
19 rural incomes, encouraging the development and

1 expansion of new advanced biofuels, and consequently
2 promoting economic growth; and

3 WHEREAS, the RFS assists in bringing new
4 technologies to farmers and consumers, and points the
5 country in the direction of energy independence; and

6 WHEREAS, international turmoil has repeatedly caused
7 increased oil spikes and increased transportation costs
8 for consumers, including increased costs attributable
9 to the transportation of food and other goods; and

10 WHEREAS, biofuels reduce greenhouse gas
11 emissions; and

12 WHEREAS, Iowa's biofuels industry has added over \$8
13 billion to Iowa's economy and generated \$2 billion in
14 new household income; and

15 WHEREAS, approximately 90,000 Iowa farmers support
16 their families and reinvigorate rural communities
17 through innovative and high-tech agricultural
18 production; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection
20 Agency (EPA) is responsible for establishing and
21 implementing the RFS, including the requirement that
22 certain volumes of various types of biofuels be blended
23 in transportation fuels each year; and

24 WHEREAS, the EPA recently proposed reducing the
25 volume levels of ethanol and biodiesel in the RFS, in
26 direct conflict with the statute; and

27 WHEREAS, the EPA's proposal is estimated to cause
28 the loss of 37,400 ethanol-related jobs and the loss of
29 7,500 biodiesel-related jobs; and

30 WHEREAS, the EPA's proposal will cause a reduction

1 in the price of corn below the cost of production with
2 a negative economic impact on midwest farm families,
3 agribusinesses, and rural communities; and

4 WHEREAS, the EPA's proposal will cause a substantial
5 reduction in the long-term investment in biofuels
6 infrastructure and a reduction in investments in
7 further energy innovation for ethanol, biodiesel,
8 advanced biofuels, and cellulosic biofuels; NOW
9 THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the United States
11 government is urged to renew its commitment to farmers,
12 lower fuel prices, and the environment by supporting a
13 robust and sustainable RFS and use all efforts to meet
14 the highest possible renewable fuel volume requirements
15 set forth in the current RFS in order to ensure that
16 this nation diversifies its energy portfolio; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
18 resolution be delivered to the Honorable Barack Obama,
19 President of the United States, to the Honorable
20 Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the United States
21 Environmental Protection Agency, to the Honorable Tom
22 Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States,
23 and to each member of Iowa's congressional delegation.