U.S. Senators Submit Letter To Wheeler On RFS Reset Requirements

Friday, May 10, 2019

On April 30, 2019, 15 U.S. Senators signed and submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, Andrew Wheeler, urging him to protect U.S. consumers and account for the ethanol blend wall when setting annual target volumes under the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) requirements.

According to the letter, a decrease in consumer demand for gasoline has occurred since the RFS Program was passed into law. Instead of the original 170 billion gallons projected, now, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects a gasoline demand for 2020 to be closer to 142 billion gallons and to decrease to 137 billion gallons by 2022. Therefore, in the letter, the Senators request that EPA acknowledge the “market reality when resetting the statutory targets such that the contribution of conventional biofuel is set below an implied 10 percent level for 2020.” They also emphasize that, should EPA fail to reset the volume below the blend wall, EPA would be violating the Congressional intent set forth under RFS, harming both consumers and refiners.

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