



Dear Candidate,

As individuals and organizations who care deeply about the environment, we are writing to ask you to reject the use of food-based biofuels as a viable solution to climate change.

In your position as a candidate for the presidency of the United States, it is imperative that you advance real solutions to tackle the global threat of climate change. Given that most biofuels are exacerbating climate pollution, we are looking to you to provide leadership to reduce the use of these fuels and promote truly effective climate solutions.

Food-based biofuels like corn ethanol and soy biodiesel require vast amounts of land. Over the past decade, increased crop production for biofuels has resulted in the conversion of 7 million acres of natural areas. This loss represents an enormous decline in wildlife habitat and contributes to increased agricultural runoff and water pollution, fueling drinking water contamination, algal blooms and dead zones in waterways.¹ The climate emissions resulting from the expansion of corn and soy in the U.S. are equivalent to the annual carbon dioxide pollution from 34 coal-fired power plants,² putting the emissions of most biofuels on par with or worse than oil and gas.

We urge you to support truly effective and local solutions to climate change. For instance, increasing wind and solar production in the Midwest would not only offer substantial emissions reductions, but would reinvigorate rural economies. Wind and solar production is also far more efficient. Solar energy, for example, can generate about 100 times more energy than food-based biofuels using the same amount of land.³ In addition, expanding existing programs to compensate landowners for restoring critical habitat, including forests, prairie and wetlands, would result in the growth of carbon sinks, a much needed solution to climate change.

As you embark on your effort to win the presidency, it's vitally important that you support climate solutions that work. And, while second-generation or cellulosic biofuels still offer promise, food-based biofuels have done more harm than good. The Midwest will ultimately benefit from a courageous position on climate-friendly energy production. We hope that you will look beyond biofuels when advocating for real climate solutions.

Sincerely,

Statewide

Iowa Green Party

Physicians for Social Responsibility Iowa Chapter

¹U.S. EPA. Biofuels and the Environment: The Second Triennial Report to Congress. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/R-18/195, 2018.

² Tyler J Lark et al 2015 Environ. Res. Lett. 10 044003

³ Searchinger, T. and R. Heimlich. 2015. "Avoiding Bioenergy Competition for Food Crops and Land." Working Paper, Installment 9 of Creating a Sustainable Food Future. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available online at <http://www.worldresourcesreport.org>.

Ames

Frederick Kirschenmann, Distinguished Fellow, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture

Cedar Rapids

Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center
Sunrise Movement Cedar Rapids

Coal Valley

Joel Vanderbush, Curator of Conservation & Education, Niabi Zoo

Des Moines

Amour

Citizens Climate Lobby: Des Moines

Drake Environmental Action League

Energy & Justice For All Committee

Fontenelle Supply Co.

Heather Ryan, Community Leader

Honey Badger Urban Farm LLC

Interfaith Green Coalition

Iowa Farm Sanctuary

Kara Marie, Secretary, Urbandale Democrats

Locally Grown Clothing Co

Lynnae Marty-Hentzen, Host of "Green City" on KFMG

Matthew Canfield, Assistant Professor of Law, Politics, and Society, Drake University

Porch Light

RAYGUN

Red Lion Renewables

Thomas Rosburg, Professor of Ecology and Botany, Drake University

VegLife Des Moines

Women's International League of Peace & Freedom: Des Moines

Dubuque

Loras LEAF

Galena

Galena Green Team

Indianola

Indianola Green Team

Iowa City

100 Grannies for a Livable Future

Bur Oak Land Trust

Fred Meyer, Community Leader

Harvest Preserve Foundation, Inc

ICOR Boxing

Iowa City Area Group of the Sierra Club

Johnson County Green Party
Mike Carberry, Green State Solutions
Net Impact
UI Environmental Law Society
UIowa Habitat for Humanity

Mechanicsville

Echollective Farm

Prairie du Sac

Curt Meine, Conservation Biologist

Quad Cities

Augustana College Professor
Augustana College Professor
Augustana College Sierra Club
Augustana Community Health Outreach Organization
Aurora Hood, Conservation Biologist
Coalition for Social Justice
Earth Keepers
Karene Nagel, Farmer
Quad Cities Democratic Socialists of America
Quad Cities Pollution Solution
Quad Cities Waterkeeper Inc.
Sage Sisters of Solidarity

Tipton

Indivisible 37/73

Waverly

Solstice Farm

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Land Stewardship Project