

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 29, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We write in support of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO) application for grant funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership.

Projects funded by these competitive grants will expand markets for farmers in Illinois and help our state further diversify its rural energy portfolio. The projects included in DCEO's proposal can begin construction and installation almost immediately once the awards are announced. These stations are in areas of large vehicle populations and large volumes of fuel sales. Ultimately, this partnership will support rural economic growth and jobs, all while providing consumers more choices at the pump.

Illinois' 14 ethanol plants have an annual production capacity of 1.4 billion gallons, representing nearly 10% of aggregate U.S. capacity. The ethanol industry in Illinois supports more than 70,000 jobs, paying out \$4.7 billion in yearly wages and creating \$17.5 billion in annual economic output. With the potential to support even more good-paying jobs across the state, and with the promise of more affordable fueling options for consumers in Illinois, we strongly support DCEO's proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and we look forward to working with you as this initiative moves forward.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

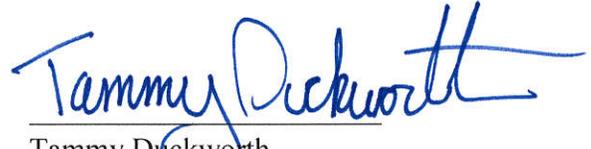


Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

  
Robin Kelly  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress

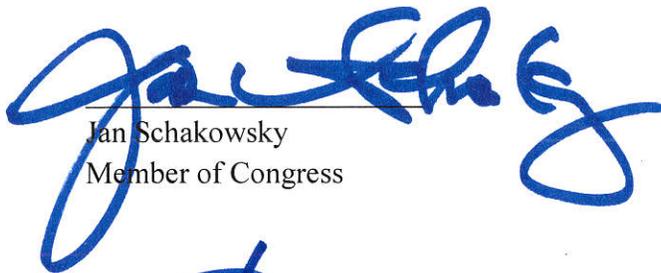
  
Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

  
John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

  
Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress

  
Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress

  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Dold  
Member of Congress

  
Peter J. Roskam  
Member of Congress

Cc: Trevor Reuschel  
Legislative Director  
Office of Congressional Relations  
USDA