

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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August 19, 2013

Dr. Jeremy I. Martin
Senior Scientist
Clean Vehicles Program
Union of Concerned Scientists
1825 K Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Martin:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Power on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, to testify at the hearing entitled "Overview of the Renewable Fuels Standard: Stakeholder Perspectives."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text. .

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions by the close of business on Monday, September 2, 2013. Your responses should be e-mailed to the Legislative Clerk in Word format at Nick.Abraham@mail.house.gov and mailed to Nick Abraham, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

cc: The Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Power

Attachment

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman

At the hearing, you testified that production of biomass-based diesel under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is leading to increased production of palm oil abroad. You further testified that production of palm oil is linked to severe deforestation, land degradation, habitat destruction, and increases in carbon pollution. Please elaborate on these issues. Specifically:

1. How does the RFS currently and/or how could the RFS in the future drive increased production of palm oil? Please respond to the argument made at the hearing by the National Biodiesel Board that palm oil is not a concern under the RFS because EPA has not approved palm oil as a renewable fuel under the law.
2. What are the environmental impacts of palm oil production, and what implications do or could these impacts have on the intended climate change benefits of the RFS?
3. What measures do you recommend, either legislatively or administratively, to ensure that the RFS does not lead to increased palm oil production and to the adverse environmental impacts associated with this production? Should there be a limit on the volume of biomass-based diesel allowed or required under the RFS? Are there types of biomass-based diesel that do not drive palm oil production?
4. What other legislative or administrative measures do you recommend to maximize the RFS's climate change benefits?