

**Opening Statement of Chairman Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Hearing on “The Renewable Fuel Standard – Implementation Issues”
June 22, 2016**

This committee takes seriously its oversight duties, and today we will give the Renewable Fuel Standard a much-needed review. I welcome Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator Janet McCabe, Energy Information Administration Deputy Administrator Howard Gruenspecht, as well as a cross section of stakeholders who will be providing their perspectives on this program.

It has been 9 years since the RFS was last revised in 2007, and it goes without saying, much has changed since then. Widespread fears at the time that America was running out of oil have been replaced with the reality of rising domestic production and even the U.S. is now exporting crude oil for the first time in four decades. Concerns about rising gasoline demand have been replaced by declines in actual usage, and assumptions that cellulosic biofuels were just around the corner have been replaced with very slow development of these fuels. Overall, we find ourselves in a very different place today than anticipated when we last legislated changes to the RFS.

Of course, just because circumstances have changed does not necessarily mean the RFS needs to be revised, but it does mean that we should take a careful look at the program. And no questions or ideas for improvements should be off the table.

One topic that warrants serious discussion is the fate of the program after 2022. The law sets out the requirements through 2022, but afterwards it essentially gives the reins to EPA. I suspect many of us are concerned about having that much discretion in the hands of unelected bureaucrats, and now is a good time to start the discussion on potential changes to this aspect of the RFS.

We all know that there are those who call for complete repeal of the RFS, and there are those who don't want any changes at all, even modest ones. But I can't help but think that if we approach this issue in a bipartisan fashion, that we can find a path forward for an RFS that works for all the parties involved – farmers, renewable fuel producers, refiners, automakers, power equipment makers, and most of all consumers.

###