

CYNTHIA AXNE

3RD DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

INVESTOR PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
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HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

COMMODITY EXCHANGES, ENERGY, AND CREDIT
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

June 25th, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell,

While I am pleased to see that progress has been made towards a bipartisan agreement on much-needed investments in infrastructure, I am disappointed that the current framework still lacks investments in one of our greatest homegrown clean energy sources: biofuels. Investments in biofuels infrastructure represents the best of all worlds as we are charting a path to an energy economy that allows us to reduce carbon emissions, be less reliant on foreign energy sources, and still support our rural communities and farmers.

Biofuels have been shown to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least half for ethanol and upwards of eighty percent for biodiesel, all while supporting rural and agricultural communities. In fact, the Department of Agriculture anticipates reduction of up to seventy percent for ethanol as soon as next year with additional investments and innovation.

Biofuels have played a critical role in decarbonizing our nation and have significant potential for future reductions. And as the initial details of this agreement indicate an interest in reducing emissions within our transportation sector, additional investments in biofuels should be included in order to see wider use of clean fuel and greater reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in transportation.

Over the past few months, I've spoken to many of my colleagues here in Congress about the immediate impact that biofuels could have in the fight to lower carbon emissions.

I've also heard directly from Iowa's farmers and biofuels producers, those seeing the effects of a changing climate firsthand, who want to be part of the 21st century energy economy and who will create thousands of American jobs with new investments in production and distribution infrastructure.

In fact, a 2019 study found that the ethanol industry alone supported nearly 350,000 jobs while contributing over \$40 billion to our economy. Even a fraction of that invested through

infrastructure legislation would deliver massive benefits across our country, including continued innovation that will keep the U.S. on the cutting edge of clean energy technologies.

As Congress works to develop the final language on this bipartisan agreement, I will have strong reservations about supporting infrastructure legislation that reaches the House if there is not also a pathway that will support this commonsense and bipartisan priority. Growing the use and production of clean biofuels across the U.S. should be a goal of this infrastructure agreement, and I look forward to continuing to work with you and our colleagues to make the case for those investments.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your work in addressing our nation's infrastructure needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia Axne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress