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

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,

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress