

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

**Protect Consumers from the Unintended Consequences of the Renewable Fuel Standard**

Cosponsor H.R. 1462, the Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Act

*Current Florida Delegation Sponsors: Gus Bilirakis, Mario Diaz-Balart, David Jolly, Jeff Miller, Tom Rooney, Dennis Ross, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Ted Yoho, Frederica Wilson,  
& Steve Southerland (Total: 75)*

Dear Florida Colleague:

Passed in 2007, the intent of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) was to improve our nation's energy security and overall air quality by requiring increased volumes of biofuels be blended annually into marketed gasoline through the year 2022. While these mandates were well intentioned, there have been unforeseen consequences that have significantly impacted, and raised concern among a broad range of stakeholders, including anti-hunger and international aid groups, Florida farmers, restaurant owners, car, boat and small-engine manufacturers, refiners and environmentalists alike:

- **Food vs. Fuel – Competition for Resources:** The RFS consumes approximately 40% of the corn produced in the U.S. annually, which increases food prices for U.S. consumers and the cost of feeding livestock for Florida's farmers and ranchers. A recent PricewaterhouseCoopers study estimated that RFS requirements will increase corn-based ethanol production demands by at least six billion gallons in 2015, resulting in a 26.8% increase in corn prices, thereby raising the cost of feed used by farmers and ranchers and inevitably increasing the cost of pork, poultry, eggs, milk, and beef products for American consumers.
- **Environmental Degradation:** Various environmental organizations are raising serious concerns over the environmental effects of corn use in fuel, and recognizing the negative impact that increased corn cropland has had on the environment. According to a study done by the Environmental Working Group, cutting the amount of corn-based ethanol used to meet RFS standards by 1.39 billion gallons would actually reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3 million tons.
- **Blend wall:** There is growing concern that the current U.S. vehicle fleet, including automobiles and boats, as well as the retail gasoline infrastructure, cannot absorb or operate undamaged under the increasingly higher volumes of biofuel-blending required by the RFS. Unfortunately, damage from higher volumes of biofuels in gasoline are not covered in the warranties for most U.S. automobiles, boats, and small engines, leaving Floridians at increased personal financial risk as a result of property damage.

Please join us in cosponsoring H.R. 1462, the Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Act, to provide flexibility and relief from the unintended financial, economic, and environmental consequences of this mandate. For questions or additional information, please contact Melissa Gierach with Congressman Ross at [Melissa.Gierach@mail.house.gov](mailto:Melissa.Gierach@mail.house.gov) OR Jennifer George-Nichol with Congressman Garcia at [Jennifer.George-Nichol@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jennifer.George-Nichol@mail.house.gov).

Signed,



Rep. Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress



Rep. Joe Garcia  
Member of Congress