



Senate Committee on Transportation & Energy ~ January 28, 2020

Re: SB20-038 Statewide Biodiesel Blend Requirement Diesel Fuel Sales

Concerning the establishment of a statewide standard for the sale of biodiesel-blended diesel fuel in Colorado.

Submitted by: Nick Levendofsky, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Director of External Affairs

Chair Winter and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB20-0038 Statewide Biodiesel Blend Requirement Diesel Fuel Sales.

According to the National Biodiesel Board, biodiesel and renewable diesel are the nation's first domestically produced, commercially available advanced biofuels – meaning they reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent when compared to petroleum diesel, as established under the nationwide Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union's member-developed policy encourages the further development and distribution of biodiesel and other renewable sources of energy as our top priority in reducing our dependence on foreign fuel. This includes long term financial support to build the infrastructure bio-fuel firms say is necessary to compete in the marketplace. RMFU policy supports a balanced energy policy that conserves and protects our nation's environment, uses alternative crops and byproducts, and recognizes the special energy needs of America's agricultural sector.

With biodiesel plants nationwide – from California to Texas to Pennsylvania – the biodiesel industry supports more than 60,000 jobs, \$2.5 billion in wages paid, and \$11 billion in economic impact. In many rural areas of the country, biodiesel plants are a driving force of the local economy, supporting the employment of technicians, plant operators, engineers, construction workers, truck drivers, and farmers.

A 2017 analysis by researchers from Argonne National Labs estimates that biodiesel and renewable diesel reduce greenhouse gas emissions between 66 and 86 percent. The fuels meet strict fuel specifications set forth by ASTM International – the official U.S. fuel-certification organization. Biodiesel is primarily used in blends of 5 percent to 20 percent and does not require special fuel pumps or engine modifications. In fact, most of the automobile industry has seen growth from a few hundred million gallons in 2005 to more than 2.6 billion gallons of annual use today.

Farmers Union has been a longtime supporter of low carbon programs on the state and federal levels, and we have been a leader in progressive, science-based climate change thinking. Colorado is laying the groundwork for a Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS), which may help cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector. RMFU looks forward to how we can be of assistance as these discussions progress in the future. We ask that you please support SB38.

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Founded in 1907, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union is a progressive, grassroots organization that represents family farmers and ranchers in Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. RMFU is dedicated to sustaining our rural communities, to wise stewardship and use of natural resources, and to protection of our safe, secure food supply. RMFU supports its goals through education and legislation, as well as by encouraging the cooperative model for mutual economic benefit.