

## ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

## SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 427**

Introduced by Carlson, 38; Christensen, 44; Davis, 43; Dubas, 34; Janssen, 15; Johnson, 23; Larson, 40; Schilz, 47; Sullivan, 41; Wallman, 30.

Read first time January 29, 2014

Committee: Agriculture

WHEREAS, in accordance with the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, the United States has demonstrated its commitment to the long-term policy of increasing the production of clean renewable fuels according to the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) by enabling the increased domestic production and use of renewable fuels, which include renewable biofuels such as ethanol, biodiesel, cellulosic, and advanced biofuels; and

WHEREAS, the RFS provides the foundation for reducing dependence on foreign sources of oil, decreasing the price of transportation fuels, reducing transportation fuel emissions, increasing rural incomes, encouraging the development and expansion of new advanced biofuels, and consequently promoting economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the RFS assists in bringing new technologies to farmers and consumers, and points the United States in the direction of energy independence; and

WHEREAS, international turmoil has repeatedly caused increased oil price spikes and increased transportation costs for consumers, including increased costs attributable to the transportation of food and other goods; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for establishing and implementing the RFS, including the requirement that certain volumes of various types of biofuels be blended in transportation fuels each year; and

WHEREAS, the EPA recently proposed reducing the volume levels for ethanol and biodiesel in the RFS, in direct conflict with the federal statute; and

WHEREAS, the EPA proposal is projected to cause job losses in the biofuels sector and related job sectors, reduce the price of corn below the cost of production, cause a negative economic effect on Midwest farm families and on agribusinesses, substantially reduce long-term investment in biofuels infrastructure, reduce investments in further energy innovation for ethanol, biodiesel, advanced biofuels, and cellulosic biofuels, and harm rural economies; and

WHEREAS, biofuels reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the Nebraska biofuels industry adds over \$5 billion to Nebraska's economy annually and generates more than \$276 million annually in labor income impacts; and

WHEREAS, more than 46,000 Nebraska farmers and ranchers support their families and reinvigorate rural communities through innovative and high-tech agricultural production.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature urges the United States Government to renew its commitment to farmers, lower fuel prices, and the environment by supporting a robust and sustainable Renewable Fuel Standard and use all

efforts to meet the highest possible renewable fuel volume requirements set forth in the current Renewable Fuel Standard in order to ensure that our nation diversifies its energy portfolio.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, United States Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and to each member of Nebraska's congressional delegation.