



April 12, 2021

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joni Ernst
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth and Senator Ernst,

On behalf of the Energy Marketers of America (EMA), the Illinois Fuel & Retail Association (IFRA) and FUELlowa, we thank you for your continued support for small businesses in Illinois, Iowa and across the country. Our associations members sell the majority of finished motor fuel products including renewable hydrocarbon biofuels, gasoline, diesel fuel, biofuels, heating fuel, jet fuel, kerosene, racing fuel and lubricating oils. Moreover, our associations represent small business fuel marketers who employ thousands of constituents in both respective states.

We write to request your continued support of Illinois, Iowa and America's small business energy marketers. As you know as much as anyone, the past year has presented significant challenges for small business. Our members are resilient but often face significant barriers in accessing federal grant funds. Congress recognized this reality when establishing the Paycheck Protection Program to benefit business with fewer than 500 employees. As Congress considers an upcoming surface transportation/infrastructure package, our request is that small businesses are able to access vital federal funds to advance alternative energy goals.

Particularly, we request a small business protection should Congress enact the Alternative Energy Grant Program. A provision included in S. 674, *Clean Corridors Act of 2019*, and H.R. 2, *MOVING Forward Act (116th Congress)* – the Alternative Energy Grant Program – proposed the creation of a grant program for states to deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations along designated alternative fuel corridors. While we applaud Congressional intent, we are concerned that grant funds may be consumed by large corporations before small businesses have an opportunity to apply. Should this provision be included in future legislation, we request that the program reserve at least one-third of total funding for independent fuel marketing businesses, with fewer than 500 hundred employees, located along designated alternative fuel corridors. Importantly, we ask that the program be fuel neutral to ensure that all types of energy infrastructure including underground storage tank systems be included in the program in order to safely and legally sell higher biofuel blends (E10 plus and B20 plus blends).

Given your role on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and previous support for more funding to upgrade motor fuel infrastructure to handle higher biofuel blends, you are uniquely positioned to help small businesses access this vital funding to achieve shared goals.

We appreciate your continued service on behalf of Iowans and Illinoisans and welcome the opportunity to continue this discussion with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Josh Sharp
President and CEO
Illinois Fuel & Retail Association

Rob Underwood
President
Energy Marketers of America

Ronald N. Langston
President and CEO
FUELlowa