

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

America's farmers are facing significant economic headwinds. Commodity prices have declined, input costs remain elevated, and uncertainty continues to weigh on rural communities across the country.

Farmers are not asking for handouts. They are asking for markets.

As your Administration works to strengthen American energy dominance and expand opportunities for U.S. agriculture, we urge you to ensure corn ethanol plays a central role in the future of low-carbon maritime fuels.

The global shipping industry transports more than 80 percent of world trade and accounts for approximately 3 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. As the world seeks practical, affordable solutions to reduce emissions from international shipping, American-grown and American-produced corn ethanol offers a scalable, reliable, and domestically sourced fuel option.

The opportunity for American agriculture is substantial. The global shipping industry consumes an estimated 70 to 80 billion gallons of fuel annually. Capturing just 5 percent of that market could create demand for an additional 4 to 5 billion gallons of ethanol and more than 1.5 billion bushels of corn each year.

At a time when farmers are facing lower commodity prices and tighter margins, these emerging markets represent an opportunity to strengthen rural economies through demand-driven growth rather than government assistance.

As the International Maritime Organization (IMO) develops standards and policies to decarbonize the shipping sector, the United States must lead.

We respectfully urge your Administration to direct the Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Transportation, and State to work together to ensure corn ethanol is recognized as an eligible feedstock for marine biofuels and low-carbon maritime fuel pathways.

Specifically, we encourage your Administration to:

- Advocate for technology-neutral policies at the International Maritime Organization that recognize the emissions benefits and market potential of corn ethanol.
- Ensure U.S. negotiators work with international partners to include corn-based ethanol in maritime decarbonization frameworks and fuel standards.
- Align domestic clean fuel policies to support marine fuel applications and create new market opportunities for American ethanol producers.
- Promote research, infrastructure development, and commercial deployment efforts that accelerate ethanol's use in the maritime sector.

Just as sustainable aviation fuel is creating new demand opportunities for American agriculture, low-carbon marine fuels can unlock another significant market for farmers and ethanol producers.

Your Administration has consistently championed American energy production. Ensuring corn ethanol has a place in the future of maritime fuels not only advances your priority but can also revitalize our nation’s rural economy.

We appreciate your leadership and stand ready to work with your Administration to help position American agriculture at the forefront of the next generation of global energy solutions.

Sincerely,



Tom Buis
Chief Executive Officer
American Carbon Alliance

cc:
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, United States Senate
The Honorable Joni K. Ernst, United States Senate
The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Ashley Hinson, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Randy Feenstra, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Zach Nunn, U.S. House of Representatives