United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 28, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We write to request a meeting between the EPA and our offices to discuss policies that can support agricultural biomass as a sustainable, responsible, renewable, and economically significant driver of the 21st century bioeconomy.

As you know, the U.S. agricultural system feeds the world and provides modern day solutions in the form of an abundance of food products, bioenergy, and bioproducts like pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and plastics made from corn, oilseeds, and other agricultural feedstocks. For the bioeconomy to achieve its full potential, industry needs a clear and simple determination from EPA that allows producers and processors to know if the biogenic emissions from agricultural feedstocks that are processed for food, fiber, and fuel are equal to or fewer than the emissions that farmers have already removed from the carbon cycle as part of the natural carbon flow.

Regardless of EPA's determination, we hope that EPA will work with all stakeholders to promptly finalize a policy that will provide certainty to the agricultural biomass industry so they can play a meaningful role in our energy and bioproducts future. We feel a meeting with the undersigned offices would represent a meaningful first step in this dialog. We look forward to your response and to continuing to work with you on this and other critical issues.

Sincerely,

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator