Biden announces commitment to RFS

By Erin Voegele | August 25, 2020

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden on Aug. 25 issued a statement describing his commitment to the Renewable Fuel Standard and criticizing the Trump Administration’s administration of the program.

“Instead of standing with those who till our land and sow our fields, we have a president who has sold out our farmers by undercutting the Renewable Fuel Standard with the granting of waivers to Big Oil,” Biden said. “Those waivers severely cut ethanol production, costing farmers income and ethanol plant workers their jobs. Now, President Trump refuses to announce the 2021 renewable fuel production levels until after the election, leaving farmers concerned of further cuts to production. The Renewable Fuel Standard marks our bond with our farmers and our commitment to a thriving rural economy. Donald Trump doesn’t respect that connection, and he’s thrown it away to the detriment of generations of producers across the Midwest and around the country—many of whom put their trust in him four years ago.

“The Obama-Biden Administration kept our word to farmers,” he continued. “A Biden-Harris Administration will promote and advance renewable energy, ethanol, and other biofuels to help rural America and our nation’s farmers, and will honor the critical role the renewable fuel industry plays in supporting the rural economy and the leadership role American agriculture will play in our fight against climate change.”

A Renewable Fuels Association spokesperson said the group is encouraged that the Biden campaign is hearing concerns about small refinery exemptions (SREs) and noted the RFA was able to discuss the issue last week at its welcome event during the NDC’s Leaders of American Agriculture virtual symposium.