

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
e-mail: grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm
- ☐ 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145
- ☐ 111 7TH AVENUE, SE, BOX 13
SUITE 6800
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

April 17, 2014

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- ☐ 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
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- ☐ 201 WEST 2ND STREET
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(563) 322-4331
- ☐ 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing today in regards to the President's plan released on March 28, 2014 to reduce methane emissions. In particular, I have several questions regarding the concept of the forthcoming 'Biogas Roadmap' that will outline voluntary strategies to reduce methane emissions.

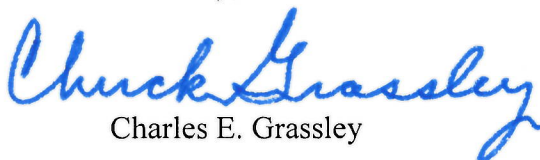
The President's Climate Action Plan "Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions" targets a number of industries for methane emission reductions. Specifically, the plan calls on the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Energy to outline a Biogas Roadmap to reduce dairy sector green house gas emissions through voluntary strategies by 25 percent by 2020.

To help me better understand the validity of methane reduction policies and technologies for the agriculture industry, please answer the following questions:

- 1) How many other countries incentivize or require methane reducing protocols for their dairy or livestock industries?
- 2) If livestock producers in other countries create more methane emissions in the coming years, will that nullify the effect of U.S. goals to reduce methane emissions?
- 3) What percent of *average size dairy farms* would need to install anaerobic digesters to create a 25 percent reduction in methane emissions by 2020?
- 4) What are the typical costs and payoff time for an anaerobic digester on an average size dairy or livestock farm?

Thank you in advance for your attention to these questions. Please respond by numbering your answers in accordance with my questions.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

RANKING MEMBER,
JUDICIARY

Co-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS