



OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

August 19, 2013

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for the August 2, 2013 letter from you and Senator Klobuchar to Attorney General Holder and me calling for an antitrust investigation to determine whether certain practices of major oil companies may be impeding competition from renewable fuels. In particular, you report allegations by industry participants that oil companies have restrained competition from renewable fuels by requiring retailers to carry and sell premium gasoline, effectively preventing the use of existing infrastructure to sell renewable fuels and compelling the installation of costly new infrastructure in order to sell such fuels. As you note, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 created the Renewable Fuel Standard to promote the development and use of domestic renewable fuel.

I can assure you that we will evaluate the information you have provided and the concerns you have expressed under pertinent antitrust standards. Protecting American consumers from anticompetitive or fraudulent practices in the energy sector has long been one of our most important responsibilities, and I can assure you that we will continue to make every effort to identify, prevent, and prosecute practices in petroleum and other markets that violate any statute or rule that the agency enforces.¹ Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention, and please let me know if we can be of further service in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Edith Ramirez
Chairwoman

¹ The Commission Website describes the range of FTC oil and natural gas initiatives at <http://ftc.gov/ftc/oilgas/index.html>.