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Subject: White House ignores Cruz request for biofuels meeting

By Eric Wolff

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The White House appears to have spurned a request from Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and eight other senators to set up a meeting with seven Midwestern senators to discuss the Renewable Fuel Standard.

"We won't have such a meeting," Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) told reporters today. "The White House would have to be interested in such a meeting. I've not heard from the White House."

Cruz has been blocking Iowan Bill Northey from becoming an undersecretary at the Department of Agriculture in an effort to force corn-state senators to discuss changes to the program. Last month he led a letter to President Donald Trump asking for a meeting within three weeks. That period ends today. Cruz has said he would lift the hold when he gets a meeting.

The White House did not respond to questions about setting up a meeting, nor did Cruz's office. Cruz sent a letter on Tuesday to Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds explaining his desire to come to a compromise on the RFS to protect "liquid fuels."

Trump has consistently backed the RFS and the Midwestern senators in policy disputes, rejecting repeated efforts to change the program by a small group of refiners and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

WHAT'S NEXT: The final rule setting RFS requirements for 2018 and 2019 is due by Nov. 30.

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