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**Subject:** Trump, Pruitt call Iowa governor to ease tensions on biofuels

By Eric Wolff

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Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds says both President Donald Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt called this morning to reassure her that they supported the federal biofuels program.

Reynolds told a press conference in Iowa the call with Trump was "very productive," and that the president and Pruitt both "affirmed to me their continued commitment to the Renewable Fuel Standard."

Midwestern politicians have been leading the charge against Pruitt's proposal to lower 2018 and 2019 biodiesel volumes in a rule set to be finalized in November, and against potential EPA plans to create a credit for exported biofuels.

"I felt very good about the conversation," Reynolds said.

Reynolds declined to offer additional details, but she said she would be in Washington next week to keep lobbying.

"We're going to continue to push for the answers we're looking for," she said. "It's not done till it's done. You don't stop until you get the final numbers, and then you start working on the next one, and it starts the next day."

Pruitt and his top staff met with Midwestern senators in Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley's office Tuesday. Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) emerged from that meeting saying she would back EPA air office nominee Bill Wehrum, who is up for consideration in the Environment and Public Works committee, though Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) said she was withholding here support for now.

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