Advanced Biofuels USA, a nonprofit educational organization, advocates for the adoption of advanced biofuels us an energy security, economic development, military flexibility and climate change solution.





Happenings on Capitol Hill, at the White House and in Federal Agencies

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



Ready, Set, ... Farm Bill proposals, listening sessions and strategy sessions continue.

Plus, some serious attention to carbon tax proposals also continues.

And, urging the reinstatement of the biodiesel tax credit. And legislating retail

fuel choice for E15.

With sophisticated discussions also of the octane value of ethanol, high octane/high ethanol blends for next generation internal combustion engines.

For more legislative news (including Executive Orders), $\underline{\text{click here}}.$

We also follow <u>policy developments</u> in the US, other countries and states. For more information on those topics, click on the name of the country or state that appears along the right margin of our website at <u>www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org</u>.

US Biodiesel Supply Looks Thin Moving into Q4 and beyond: Sources

September 19, 2017 – (Platts/UkrAgroConsult) The US could have trouble meeting its biodiesel blending mandate as imports from Argentina and Indonesia have been cut off by duties, sources have said.

"Without Argentina this year or early next year there's going ...

<u>Fact Sheet: The Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act: Environmental, Health & Consumer Considerations</u>

September 19, 2017 – by Jesse Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) Today, 10 percent of the U.S. gasoline supply is provided by renewable fuel, primarily ethanol. Increasing the use of renewable fuel, which is more sustainable and less ...

Are High Ethanol Blends Going to Be Essential, and Mandatory, for Super High Fuel-Efficient Engines?

September 14, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... Now, war is surely about to break out over E25-E30 blending, now that RFA CEO Bob Dinneen testified in DC in his courtly but adamant manner that a high-octane, low-carbon ethanol ...

Democrat Senators Offer Farm Bill Energy Package

September 13, 2017 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) Senator Al Franken (D-MN), together with Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) have introduced the Agricultural Energy Programs Reauthorization Act of 2017, to reauthorize Title IX programs and funding through ...

Over 150 Biofuels Champions in D.C. Today to Kick Off Industry's Largest Advocacy Summit

September 13, 2017 – (Growth Energy) Growth Energy is holding its annual advocacy conference in Washington, D.C., this week, bringing together over 150 leaders in the ethanol industry from across the country to champion the association's policy priorities on ...

All Eyes on Energy

August 28, 2017 – by Keith Loria (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The 2014 Farm Bill—otherwise known as the Agricultural Act of 2014—places a larger emphasis on energy than past farm bills have. It includes the most recent version of the ...

Fischer Expects Fight over Farm Bill

August 24, 2017 – by Liz Morales (Columbus Telegram) Agriculture was a main topic of discussion Wednesday during U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer's listening session in Albion. Fischer said she expects a big fight when the 2018 farm bill is ...

<u>Congressional Research Service Publishes The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS):</u> <u>An Overview</u>

August 23, 2017 – by Kelsi Bracmort (Congressional Research Service; posted by OurEnergyPolicy.org) Congress has expressed ongoing interest in the RFS, particularly the challenges associated with implementing the RFS and with compliance for entities required to use renewable fuels. Some ...

Don't Change Horses in the Middle of the River

August 22, 2017 – by Brent Erickson (Biotechnology Innovation Organization/Biofuels Digest) We were disappointed, but not surprised, to see Mike McAdams and his members come out in support of changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard in Biofuels Digest (July 26 – The ...

Some Democrats See Tax Overhaul as a Path to Taxing Carbon

August 18, 2017 – by Lisa Friedman (The New York Times) With a sweeping overhaul of the tax code on the horizon, two Senate Democrats believe this is the moment to broach the third rail of climate change policy: a carbon ...





EPA has re-opening comments for the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards, too. Deadline is October 5.

Ried Vapor Pressure, E15 and Renewable Fuel Standard issues continue.

Energy beets climb another rung on the ladder to recognition as biofuel feedstock.

And cost of carbon, a close relative to carbon tax, gets attention.

Scroll down for information about regulations related to these topics and others among our <u>latest postings</u>. Others you'll find in the <u>Federal Regulations</u> category online.

Letter: Is the EPA Scamming Auto Owners?

September 18, 2017 – by Dale Christensen (Glacial Lakes Energy/Argus Leader) How long can the Environmental Protection Agency ignore clean air and soaking auto owners with high priced inferior gas?

It seem to me those EPA ('dirty rotten scoundrels') as described ...

Ethanol Industry Urges EPA to Take New Look at Midlevel Blends

September 18, 2017 – by Jeff Barber (Oil Price Information Service) he U.S. ethanol industry is hoping it can obtain from the Trump administration something it could not get from the Obama White House: an acknowledgement that higher levels \dots

Biodiesel's Impact on Soybean Oil Prices Lower than Previously Thought

September 18, 2017 – by Tom Steever (Brownfield Ag News) An agriculture economist says biodiesel production has had less impact on soybean oil prices than previously thought. The impression was that the U.S. biodiesel production boom following the establishment ...

Oil and Ethanol Groups Debate Future of Fuel

September 15, 2017 – by Ben Nuelle (Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network)
... Members of the Renewable Fuels Association and the American Petroleum
Institute discussed the Renewable Fuels Standard on a four-member panel Tuesday.

"We would like to see the RFS significantly ...

Ethanol Report on E15 Hurricane Help

September 15, 2017 –by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) Fuel disruptions due to Hurricane Harvey were mitigated somewhat, thanks to an early end to the summer restriction on sales of E15 (15% ethanol fuel) that helped offset gasoline supply shortfalls and limit ...

U.S. EPA Chief Denies Icahn Influence in Biofuel Regulation

September 13, 2017 – by Valerie Volcovici (Reuters) Investor Carl Icahn never wielded excessive influence on U.S. biofuels policy while acting as President Donald Trump's adviser on regulation, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency said in a letter to a ...

EPA: Thumbs-up to 'Energy Beet' Idea

September 12, 2017 – by Mikkel Pates (Agweek) The Environmental Protection Agency predicted it might take six months to do an initial evaluation of "energy beets" for their environmental footprint as a feedstock for biofuels.

Six years — not months ...

Ethanol Groups Testify at EPA Hearing on CAFE-GHG Standards

September 12, 2017 – by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Growth Energy, the American Coalition for Ethanol and the Renewable Fuels Association are among the groups that testified at the U.S. EPA's public hearing for the reconsideration of the ...

Risk on the Horizon for RFS Advanced Pool?

September 11, 2017 –by Michael McAdams (Advanced Biofuels Association/Biomass Magazine) The time is now to make sure policymakers in Washington, D.C., understand the importance of staying the course on fuels of the future. — On July 28, the ...

Donald Trump Ignores Biodiesel and the Loyal Voters behind It

September 11, 2017 – by Lindsey Rae Gjording (DW) The Midwest vote helped elect Trump, but his campaign promises to defend ethanol have fallen short. Farmers struggle to get by with declining crop sales and outpricing from larger oil firms and ...

RFS Comment Period Closes, More than 44,000 Comments Submitted

September 6, 2017 – by Erin Voegele (Biomass Magazine) The comment period on the U.S. EPA's proposed rule to set 2018 renewable volume standards (RVOs) under the Renewable Fuel Standard, along with the 2019 RVO for biomass-based diesel, closed ...

RFA Says Ethanol Can Fill Fuel Need With Refining Capacity Down

September 1, 2017 – (WNAX Radio) Hurricane Harvey's devastation in Texas has negatively impacted the nation's oil refining capacity. Renewable Fuel Association President and CEO Bob Dinneen says the ethanol industry has the fuel to fill that supply need ...

Biofuels Voices Comment on RFS Rule

September 1, 2017 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The comment period for the EPA's proposed volume obligations for biofuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has officially ended and stakeholders in both the biodiesel and ethanol industries made their ...

Duckworth Asks FBI to Investigate Trump Ally Carl Icahn

September 1, 2017 – by Timothy Cama (The Hill) Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-III.) is calling on the FBI to investigate whether Carl Icahn, a former external adviser to President Trump, violated conflict of interest laws.

Duckworth's request, outlined in a ...

The People's Fuel

September 1, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Biodiesel is the people's advanced biofuel, but it is not always the Establishment's darling. Whether it is cleaner air, more lubricity, more advanced domestic manufacturing and jobs, higher property values ...

Pruitt's EPA Undermines Cellulosic Biofuels and Transparency in Government

August 31, 2017 – by Jeremy Martin (Union of Concerned Scientists) As the New York Times recently reported, the EPA Administrator Pruitt has been conducting much of his work to undermine the EPA's mission in secret. The recent proposed rule ...

Growth Energy Files NHTSA Comments in Support of Ethanol Blends

August 30, 2017 – (Growth Energy/Ethanol Producer Magazine) Growth Energy recently filed comments with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as it prepares an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) ...

More Is Less

August 30, 2017 – by Doug Durante (Ethanol Producer Magazine/Urban Air Institute)

... We need more ethanol in gasoline, and in so doing, we will get less drain on our wallets, less toxic aromatics, less carbon, less sulfur, less particulates ...

Cellerate + Enogen Could Meet Cellulosic Ethanol Goal

August 29, 2017 –by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) If every corn ethanol plant in the country were to convert to Cellerate bolt-on technology combined with Enogen® corn enzyme technology from Syngenta, the country could more than meet the goals ...

New Biofuel Exemption Prospects Spur Oil Giant Concern

August 29, 2017 – by Brian Dabbs (Bloomberg BNA) An era of relaxed biofuel blending requirements may be dawning for small oil refineries nationwide following a watershed court decision and new congressional direction for regulators.

That prospect is cheered on ...

Ethanol Industry Wants EPA to Ease Fuel Restrictions to Reduce Price Spikes in Harvey's Wake

August 29, 2017 – by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) The ethanol industry pressed the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday to relax fuel restrictions nationwide to blend more of the corn-based fuel in the gasoline supply to reduce the threat ...

EPA Changed Course on Cellulosic RFS Documents: EPA Originally Sought Increase in Cellulosic Volumes

August 25, 2017 –by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency originally proposed a much higher cellulosic ethanol number in its Renewable Fuel Standard proposal sent to the Office of Management and Budget in ...

How Much Ethanol Do You Want in Your Gas in 2018?

August 24, 2017 – (BoatUS/PowerBoatWorld.com) The battle to protect your boat's engine is not over. Right now, the Environmental Protection Agency is asking for public comments on the amount of ethanol that must be blended into the nation's fuel ...

Biofuels and Biogas Unite in Call for Cellulosic Targets

August 24, 2017 – (Biofuels International) Leading US advocates for advanced liquid and gasified biofuels have united to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stand behind President Trump's commitment to driving investment in the next generation of 'homegrown' ...

Letter: The Economic Consequences of a Post-2022 RFS

August 23, 2017 - by Lon Carrier (Argus Leader) ... The ethanol volume

requirements will likely remain at this level until the EPA takes over the program entirely in 2023. At that point, the agency could cut corn ethanol out ...

<u>Farmers Union to Power the Transition to a Homegrown, Renewable Energy Future</u> <u>for the U.S.</u>

August 23, 2017 – (National Farmers Union) The transition to a homegrown, renewable energy future for America is underway. Biofuels, higher blends of ethanol in gasoline, and advanced, bio-based technologies are reaping tremendous benefits for our environment and providing ...

Bergeson & Campbell, P.C. Forms "TSCA New Chemicals Coalition"

August 23, 2017 – (Environmental Law Network) TSCA New Chemicals Coalition will give the chemical community greater opportunity to engage with EPA on constructive, helpful, and informed improvements to the new chemicals review process — ... We recognize and applaud EPA's ...

Letter to the Editor: Eclipse Visitors, Help Us on Climate

August 22, 2017 – by Mick Harris (Oregon Live) I loved Richard Waring's Aug. 17 message to eclipse visitors. As somebody who continues to try and take the fight to climate change through a variety of organizations, I agree with him that, in ...

Behind the Battle for Octane

August 22, 2017 – by Denton Cinquegrana (Oil Price Information Service(OPIS)) What you need to know as the refining, agricultural and auto industries gear up to vie for their piece of a multi-billion-dollar market — Premium gasoline has clearly become ...

Listen to Farmers, Not Oil Industry Lobbyists

August 22, 2017 – by Kris Tom (The Brazil Times) This paper recently published a letter from oil lobbyist Maureen Ferguson attacking Indiana farmers and ethanol producers. I'm a farmer, and I want you to know the oil lobby is ...

Special Report: Refiner Valero's Secret Campaign against U.S. Biofuels Mandates

August 21, 2017 – by Chris Prentice (Reuters) ... As part of an extensive behindthe-scenes lobbying campaign, Valero played a key role in bringing these people and groups together around a policy proposal that could save the refiner hundreds of ...

Biofuels Are Good for Iowa by U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley

August 21, 2017 – Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) (River Cities' Reader) Q: How has your support for renewable fuels helped Iowa? A: Iowans breathe cleaner air and can chalk up a stronger, healthier economy thanks to renewable fuels. My ...

EPA Public Hearing on the Reconsideration of the Midterm Evaluation Final Determination September 6, 2017 in Washington DC; Comment period DEADLINE: October 5, 2017

August 21, 2017 – (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) EPA will hold a public hearing on September 6, 2017 in Washington DC to hear public testimony on the

Reconsideration of the Midterm Evaluation Final Determination. EPA signed a Federal Register \dots

Major Study Says "Cut Cellulosic Ethanol out", RFA Says "No Way Jose"

August 21, 2017 – by Helena Tavares Kennedy (Biofuels Digest) In Iowa, a new tractable multi-market model study finds that the RFS has substantially benefited the U.S. economy by lowering gasoline, crude oil prices, and crude oil imports, while increasing ...

Tested, Proven and Driven - Ethanol Moving Forward

August 18, 2017 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The American Coalition for Ethanol celebrated its 30th annual conference this week by highlighting recent victories for the industry and embracing the challenges moving forward.

"We're as close as we've ever been to getting ...

New Study Shows Renewable Fuel Standard Helps—Not 'Harms'—the US Economy

August 18, 2017 –by Bob Dinneen (Renewable Fuels Association/The Hill) Buried deep within the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent proposal for 2018 renewable fuel standard (RFS) blending requirements is a curious request for public comments on whether the proposed biofuel ...

New Fuels, Vehicles, Both, Together: The Digest's 2017 Multi-Slide Guide to the Co-Optima Market Transformation Project

August 18, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) The US Department of Energy initiated a project to identify and mitigate the challenges of moving new fuels and vehicles into markets. Specifically, engaging with all critical stakeholders (OEM's, fuel ...

Letter - We Are the Enemy

August 17, 2017 –by Orrie Swayze (The Public Opinion) ... In this case government verbally declared ethanol's optimal, lower cost best performance blend E30 is illegal. Never before has a major industry resource so successfully quashed the competition by ...

Gov. Pete Ricketts among Those Touting Higher Ethanol Blends at Industry Conference in Omaha

August 17, 2017 – By Russell Hubbard (Omaha World-Herald) Ready or not, higher ethanol blends appear destined for a gas station near you, a development touted by Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts Wednesday at a major industry conference being held

Latest in Federal Litigation



Federal litigation news sometimes overlaps with Federal regulation or legislation items, so check both sections.

The Renewable Fuel Standard finds itself in the courts.

And biodiesel trade claims continue against Argentina and Indonesia.

Find more items about federal litigation on our website, click here.

New U.S. Duties on Biodiesel Will Create Void

September 15, 2017 –by Sean Pratt (The Western Producer) If the U.S. plans to fill the gap created by slamming the door on Argentina and Indonesia, it may need Canadian canola — A biodiesel dispute involving the United ...

Icahn Sees Biofuels Fight Deepening as Refinery Losses Mount

August 30, 2017 – by Mario Parker and Jennifer A Dlouhy (Bloomberg) Billionaire Carl Icahn says an oil industry push for structural changes to the U.S. biofuels mandate will persist, even if the Environmental Protection Agency rebuffs requests from refiners to ...

New Biofuel Exemption Prospects Spur Oil Giant Concern

August 29, 2017 – by Brian Dabbs (Bloomberg BNA) An era of relaxed biofuel blending requirements may be dawning for small oil refineries nationwide following a watershed court decision and new congressional direction for regulators.

That prospect is cheered on ...

Failure to Set Cost of Carbon Hampers Trump's Effort to Expand Use of Fossil Fuels

August 28, 2017 – by Andrew Revkin (ProPublica) The Trump administration plans to sharply reduce the government's estimate of how much each ton of carbon emissions harms the planet. It hasn't done so yet, and that delay is slowing Trump's

NBB Fair Trade Coalition Succeeds in Latest Stage of Biodiesel Import Cases

August 22, 2017 – (National Biodiesel Board) Department Finds That Argentina and Indonesia Unfairly Subsidize Biodiesel They Export to US — The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) Fair Trade Coalition won a preliminary countervailing duty determination from the Commerce Department ...

Pruitt, EPA Should Heed Court Ruling, Boost RFS Biofuel Blending Levels

August 18, 2017 –(25 x '25 REsource) In a radio interview in Iowa late last week, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt made pretty clear the rational that went into his

agency proposing lower levels of cellulosic biofuels, advanced biofuels, and total renewable ...

<u>Biodiesel From Argentina and Indonesia: Postponement of Preliminary</u> <u>Determinations of Antidumping Duty Investigations</u>

August 17, 2017 – (Federal Register/International Trade Administration) On April 12, 2017, the Department of Commerce (Department) initiated antidumping duty (AD) investigations on biodiesel from Argentina and Indonesia.[1] Currently, the preliminary determinations of these investigations are due no later ...

EPA Erred in Denying Renewable Fuel Hardship Exemption: Courts

August 16, 2017 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency used too strict of a test when it denied Sinclair Oil Corp's request for an exemption from the country's biofuel regulations, a U.S. appeals court ruled ...

Advanced Biofuels USA News

Advanced Biofuels USA Welcomes Todd Campbell to Its Expanded Board of Directors

During this summer, Advanced Biofuels USA, decided to expand its board of directors from seven to nine members and elected Todd Campbell, former Senior Adviser for Energy and the Biobased Economy for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development in the Obama Administration to fill the first new seat.



"Since 2009, Campbell has honed knowledge, skills and relationships in organizations and government offices related to development and use of biofuels that are crucial to the educational work of Advanced Biofuels USA," explained executive director Joanne Ivancic. "We look forward to benefiting from his firsthand involvement in key initiatives such as the Farm to Fly Agreement on aviation biofuels involving both industry representatives, organizations and federal agencies. With the Farm Bill coming up, we will appreciate his experience and thoughtful insights from working on policy development for the last Farm Bill."

For the past seven years, Campbell has worked at USDA in various positions that entailed leadership roles with the Biomass Research and Development Board and Operations Committee that formulated national strategy including the National

Biofuels Action Plan, Federal Activities Report on the Bioeconomy, and Billion Ton Bioeconomy Initiative. He managed projects such as Wood to Energy for forest restoration and economic development, the Biogas Roadmap and Dairy MOU, and the USDA MOU with the Department of Navy on Biofuels.

Campbell also expands the organization's reach to Vermont, complementing members in the DC/Maryland/Virginia area, Minnesota, Ohio and Brazil.

"Advanced Biofuels USA is fortunate to broaden our board membership with someone with up-to-date hands-on experience in the field of biofuels and the bioeconomy," continued Ivancic. "We are so pleased to welcome Todd to our dedicated group." READ MORE

Energy Beet Feasibility Study Finds Navy Best Potential Near-Term Customer for Alcohol-to-Jetfuel Product

Advanced Biofuels USA conducted a USDA-funded feasibility study based on 2016 energy beet project at University of Maryland Eastern Shore which found that the US Navy is best near-term market for economic viability of the project.



With Norfolk and Mid-Atlantic international airports in the area, could Maryland's Eastern Shore, part of the Delmarva (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia) Peninsula, develop an economically viable sustainable alternative jetfuel (SAJF) supply and production chain to serve these markets?

This question was assessed by Advanced Biofuels USA, with a US Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant using available product yield and production cost information from Phase 1 of an energy beet project conducted in 2016 by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



The study has determined that on the Delmarva it is economically possible for energy beets to be grown and processed into advanced ethanol as a stand-alone product for motor transportation or as a feedstock for renewable jetfuel to meet the needs of the US Navy at Norfolk while

complementing, not disrupting existing agricultural industries and possibly providing environmental benefits and poultry feed co-products. Alternative markets for commercial aviation biofuel or for ethanol as feedstock for chemical production should give investors and growers confidence as they consider developing a new

industry in this area.



This project used newly developed energy beets as the feedstock, enzymatic conversion of the biomass to obtain fermentable sugars, and proposed processing of those sugars on barge-based conversion facilities into ethanol as a precursor or biointermediate for jetfuel production.

Based on very preliminary data, this study finds that it could be feasible to produce low greenhouse gas emissions advanced ethanol or jetfuel on the Eastern Shore and Delmarva using all the biomass sugars from energy beets which yield twice as much ethanol per acre as corn starch. This could provide an economically feasible and environmentally sustainable way to provide fuels for the U.S. Navy solicitation using energy beet feedstock.



The study lists substantial additional research needed to verify initial data, test new conversion pathways, obtain regulatory approvals, confirm markets for co-products and implement the innovations outlined. READ MORE Download study

Advanced Biofuels USA Current Policy Analyses and Suggestions

Links to policy papers, statements and handouts can be found on the Advanced Biofuels USA home page. Or, <u>READ MORE</u>

NEW EDUCATION NEWSLETTER! Advanced Biofuels USA sends three newsletters: Conference Calendar; Policy, Legislation, Regulations, Happenings; and a NEW Education Newsletter. All can be found archived on our NEWS page. And Click HERE to Subscribe to the new Education Newsletter (Free).

Watch for it the first week of each month.

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