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Open for Public Comment

[The Safer and Affordable Fuel Efficient Vehicles Proposed Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 COMMENTS DUE: October 23, 2018](#)

(Environmental Protection Agency) The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) propose to amend certain existing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks and establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. Public Comments: The EPA docket ... [Read Full Article](#)

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2018 US Senate and House Elections

Biofuels should be an issue during this year's US Senate and House of Representatives elections. We'll follow developments [here](#) and on our [website](#) with category, [2018 Election Activities](#) and tag, [2018 US Senate and House Campaigns](#) .



Latest Federal Legislation Posts



Legislation initiatives at the end of this Congress highlight **climate risk disclosures, carbon taxes** or a **price on carbon** and the **Farm Bill**, particularly the **Energy Title**, along with continued clamoring for **year-round E15** sales to non-flex fuel vehicles. Dissatisfaction (to put it mildly) with **tariffs, trade policy** and **"small" refinery waivers of biofuel blending obligations** might also spawn legislation.

For more legislative news (including Executive Orders), [click here](#).

We also follow [policy developments](#) 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 the website.

[Why Donald Trump Is Feeling the Heat From Midwestern Farmers](#)

by Justin Worland (Time Magazine) On the campaign trail, Donald Trump made two big promises: renegotiating free trade agreements and helping corn growers by supporting ethanol. ... As tensions over trade have proven painful to Midwestern farmers in the short term, demands that he do more to back ethanol have increased from ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Elizabeth Warren Leads Push by Democrats to Force Public Companies Make Climate-Risk Disclosures](#)

by Francine McKenna (Market Watch) The Climate Risk Disclosure Act directs the SEC to issue rules that require every public company to disclose more on climate change exposure — Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts is spearheading an effort by Democratic senators to bring a bill that would require public companies to disclose more ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Ethanol Blog: Bill Would Require EPA to Reallocate Biofuels Gallons Lost to Waivers](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) While EPA remains in an impasse on requests to reallocate biofuels gallons lost to small refinery waivers of the Renewable Fuel Standard, a bipartisan bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives would require the agency to reallocate those gallons. The EPA granted a ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Baker-Schultz Carbon Tax Group Say It Would Beat Paris Target](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) The carbon tax plan pushed by Republicans like James Baker, George Schultz and Christine Todd Whitman would exceed the 26-28 percent pollution reductions promised by the Obama administration under the Paris agreement. The proposal, first released by the Climate Leadership Council in February 2017, ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Will Dems Act on GHGs after a Midterm Win? It's Complicated](#)

by Nick Sobczyk (E&E News) Democrats have long billed themselves as the party of climate science, and if they take back the House in November, they want to put global warming back on the congressional calendar. "It's the 800-pound gorilla," said Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.), co-chairman of the Safe Climate Caucus. ... [Read Full Article](#)

[NCGA: USDA Trade Aid Won't Make Up for Lost Markets](#)

(National Corn Growers Association) The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) today said plans unveiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide aid to farmers negatively impacted by trade tariffs and ongoing trade uncertainty would be insufficient to even begin to address the serious damage done to the corn market ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Put Algae in the Farm Bill!](#)

(Algae Biomass Organization) ... Algae are fast becoming a significant component in food and health products, and it is time that this new crop was afforded the support by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that other crops have

seen for decades. Thanks to outreach by ABO and its members, a number ... [Read Full Article](#)

Latest on Federal Regulation



The "**small refinery**" **waivers**, garnered a lot of thought this month from a regulatory perspective, too. The science of **E15 Reid Vapor Pressure** and the **MOVES2014** ethanol mixture continues to receive short shrift. The biogas/renewable natural gas interests are giving renewed attention to **eRINS**.

Trade barriers and **tariffs** and a **\$12 Billion** aid package to alleviate resulting suffering in the agricultural sector received plenty of attention this month, again, with a common refrain that farmers would prefer enhanced trade to payoffs or handouts.

Some, seeing the limits of federal regulations to fully appreciate the environmental benefits of biofuels, are focusing attention on **state policies**. LOTS hangs on interpretation of regulations.

Scroll down for details, for information about regulations related to these topics and others.

[Finding Pathways for Biofuels Advocates Say State Low-Carbon Fuel Policies Could Drive More Ethanol Demand](#)

by Chris Clayton (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Just a few blocks from the commotion and crowds at the Global Climate Action Summit, biofuel advocates gathered Thursday to champion more low-carbon fuel standards that could take the country's biofuels industry in new directions. While the climate summit focused on all the various ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Small Refinery Exemptions and Ethanol Demand Destruction](#)

by Scott Irwin (FarmDocDaily) Small refinery exemptions (SREs) represent the latest controversy to engulf the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). When the U.S. Congress first created the RFS in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) it included a temporary exemption for small refineries from the mandate through 2011. Under the ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Renewable Electricity and the Renewable Fuel Standard – An Untapped Opportunity?](#)

by John Mosheim (Clean Energy Business Network) ... Currently, electricity generated from the combustion of cellulosic biogas under the RFS is an approved pathway for RIN generation.[1] In July 2014 EPA approved this pathway for RIN generation from electricity derived from biogas feedstock from a variety of anaerobic digesters. In ... [Read Full Article](#)

[It's Time for Action to Unlock Growth of Biofuels in Kansas](#)

by Jesse McCurry (Wichita Eagle/Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission & Producers Association) ... Our grains reach markets around the world and feed production at a dozen Kansas ethanol plants that produce nearly 500 million

gallons of clean, renewable biofuel each year. Ethanol production alone supports hundreds of thousands of jobs across the ... [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Pushes Back on Urban Air Challenge of Faulty Emissions Model](#)

(Urban Air Initiative) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has refused to acknowledge it used faulty science and blending practices to paint an inaccurate picture of ethanol emissions in a long-awaited response to the Urban Air Initiative (UAI). In January 2017, UAI, the states of Nebraska and Kansas, and the ... [Read Full Article](#)

[The Digest's 2018 Multi-Slide Guide to Airlines 4 America and Sustainable Aviation Fuels](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... Annually, commercial aviation helps drive nearly \$1.5 trillion in U.S. economic activity and more than 10 million U.S. jobs. Airlines for America (A4A) vigorously advocates on behalf of the American airline industry as a model of safety, customer service and environmental responsibility and as the ... [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Needs to Reallocate Gallons from RFS Waivers](#)

by Geoff Cooper (Renewable Fuels Association/Ethanol Producer Magazine) : Incoming RFA President and CEO Geoff Cooper addresses the small refiner exemptions issued by the U.S. EPA last year, and how they affect the ethanol market — The U.S. EPA remains committed to meeting the statutory deadline for finalizing the 2019 Renewable Fuel ... [Read Full Article](#)

[New Analysis Shows RFS Waiver Price](#)

by Kelly Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) EPA's small refinery waivers under the Renewable Fuel Standard could cost the ethanol industry 4.6 billion gallons of domestic demand and close to \$20 billion in sales revenue over the next six years, according to a recently updated analysis by the University of Missouri's ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Understanding the Emissions Benefits of Higher Ethanol Blends: EPA Modeling Fails to Tell the Whole Story.](#)

by Steve Vander Griend (Clean Fuels Development Coalition) Adding ethanol to gasoline improves it in every way. It lowers carbon, reduces common air pollutants for smog formation, lessens CO2 emissions, reduces sulfur content, and provides clean octane as a replacement for toxic aromatics. In short it makes gasoline significantly better ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Making America Great Again Starts with the States](#)

by David Vander Griend (Ethanol Producer Magazine/Urban Air Initiative) Dave VanderGriend, president of Urban Air Initiative, doesn't mince words in his column this month, calling out EPA for what he says is collusion with the oil industry. — ... The 15.8 billion gallons of ethanol we produce and the economic benefits it ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Americans Still Want Better Fuel Economy, Survey Says](#)

by Eric C. Evarts (Green Car Reports) Just as the Trump administration moves to roll back fuel economy standards, a new survey shows that Americans are

dissatisfied with the fuel economy their cars already get. The American Customer Satisfaction Index survey for cars was released Tuesday, and among the 10 attributes the ... [Read Full Article](#)

[RFA, Growth Energy Demand Transparency for Small Refinery Exemptions in New Lawsuit](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) and Growth Energy today filed a lawsuit in federal district court, alleging that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Energy (DOE) have improperly denied agency records requested by RFA, Growth Energy, and others under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). ... [Read Full Article](#)

[An Open Letter to EPA Acting Administrator Wheeler](#)

by Brian Jennings (American Coalition for Ethanol/Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... Consider this a blueprint for restoring the trust EPA has broken with farmers and rural America. 1. Make good on the president's promises to allow E15 use year-round. Trump has made three or four public promises to allow E15 use year-round and ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Renewable Fuels Mandate Is Costing Americans Billions](#)

by Nan Swift (Washington Examiner/National Taxpayers Union) Mandates under the Renewable Fuel Standard are displacing much more affordable petroleum fuel with expensive biodiesel. That includes millions of gallons that are imported from overseas. ... The fact is, American biodiesel production is simply not keeping up with the levels required by the ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Understanding the Debate Over Ethanol and Smog](#)

by Robert Rapier (Forbes) ... To recap, gasoline must meet a specific requirement called the Reid vapor pressure (RVP). If the vapor pressure of gasoline is too high, it evaporates too quickly and contributes more to smog formation. ... Pure ethanol has an RVP of 2 psi. If the mixing was ... [Read Full Article](#)

[US Cellulosic Waiver Credit Likely to Be \\$1.77 in 2019: Platts Analytics](#)

by Joshua Pedrick (S&P Global/Platts) The US Environmental Protection Agency is likely to set the 2019 cellulosic waiver credit (CWC) at \$1.77 for each credit, down from \$1.96 in 2018, according to S&P Global Platts Analytics. "The most important variable in the calculation of the CWC is the bulk sales price ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Ethanol Leaders Consider Push to Label E15 as Unleaded 88](#)

by Mark Dorenkamp (Brownfield Ag News) ... During the American Coalition for Ethanol conference in Minneapolis, ACE senior vice president Ron Lamberty says stakeholders looked at the pros and cons of a more uniform approach to labeling E15 as Unleaded 88. "Two of the big chains in the U.S., and Kum ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Red Trail President Speaks up for Ethanol Production](#)

by Mikkell Pates (Forum News Service/Bismark Tribune) Now more than ever, farmers who believe in the future of ethanol need to speak up for it, says Gerald Bachmeier, president of the North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association.

Bachmeier, who also serves as chief executive officer of Red Trail Energy LLC,
in ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Motorists Can Make Better Decisions at the Pump: Misconceptions about Gasoline Mean Lost Savings, Dirtier Air](#)

by Jeff Rice (Journal-Advocate) ... Motorists shop almost exclusively according to price, except when the price goes down, and labor under a plethora of misconceptions about additives, octane and ethanol. That can lead to some unwise decisions at the pump. Numerous studies that show most Americans shop according to price, especially ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Ethanol Blog — Ethanol Groups Seek EPA Documents on Small Refinery Waivers](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Two leading ethanol interest groups and one of the nation's largest ethanol producers asked a federal court on Thursday to force two federal agencies to hand over records related to the issuance of small refinery waivers to the Renewable Fuel Standard. In a lawsuit ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Nebraska Corn Offers Flex Fuel Infrastructure Grants, Urges EPA to Maintain RFS Commitment](#)

(Nebraska Corn Board/KTIC) The Nebraska Corn Board is committed to expanding corn markets for farmers and offering motorists a greater selection of clean-burning, home-grown fuel options. The Board recently allocated funds in its

2018-2019 fiscal year budget to help further develop the renewable fuel infrastructure in the state. Through this grant ... [Read Full Article](#)

[USDA Stands With Ethanol on Waivers](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Federal Agencies Disagree on Accounting for Small-Refinery Waivers in 2019 — EPA has made clear it is not considering public comments on small-refinery waivers and how they affect the Renewable Fuel Standard. But a USDA memorandum sent to EPA on Aug. 15 disputes the EPA's ... [Read Full Article](#)

[NATSO Alternative Fuels Council Prioritizes Biodiesel Fuel Quality](#)

by Jeff Hove (Biodiesel Magazine/Alternative Fuels Council) Alternative fuels such as biodiesel represent an important growth opportunity for fuel marketers nationwide. But for many fuel retailers, myriad state and federal regulations and incentives for alternative fuels can be complex and overwhelming. — ... To help fuel retailers leverage the resources necessary to ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Iowa RFA Hosts 10th Annual Biofuels Tour](#)

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) recently hosted the 10th Annual Biofuels: Science and Sustainability Tour, taking nearly 40 participants representing members of Congress from around the country on a biofuels journey through the state, including visits to an ethanol plant, biodiesel plant, family farm, soybean crush facility, and ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Letter Urges Trump to Direct EPA to Complete RFS Electric Pathway](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On Aug. 17, the owners of nearly 60 anaerobic digestion (AD) projects sent a letter to President Trump asking him to tell the U.S. EPA to prioritize the development of an electric pathway under the Renewable Fuel Standard. The letter cites efforts by members of ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Senators Ask EPA to Increase Biodiesel Volumes](#)

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) A bipartisan group of nearly 40 U.S. Senators led by Patty Murray (D-WA), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) have sent a letter urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to increase volume obligations for biomass-based diesel and advanced biofuel and ensure any small refiner economic hardship exemptions ... [Read Full Article](#)

[AFBF Welcomes Boosts to Biofuels Volumes, but Cautions against Overuse of Small Refinery Waivers](#)

(American Farm Bureau Federation) Though pleased with EPA's proposal to increase renewable fuel volumes, the American Farm Bureau Federation warned that the agency's excessive use of small refinery waivers diminishes the likelihood that volume targets will be met. "EPA's excessive use [of small refinery waivers] will undermine the goals that were ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Trump Reshaped U.S. Climate Policy in One Month: August 2018](#)

by Maxine Joselow and Benjamin Storrow (E&E News) ... First came the rollback of clean car rules, an aggressive effort to unravel former President Obama's program to reduce tailpipe pollution. Then came the Clean Power Plan replacement, another muscular move that dismantles Obama's signature initiative for curbing emissions from the power sector. ... [Read Full Article](#)

[2019 Proposed RFS Volumes: The Deep-Dive Analysis](#)

by Antoine Schellinger (Biofuels Digest) In what has now become the final RFS2 issued policy under Scott Pruitt, there is no change from the policy established in the proposed and final 2018 Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO). The use of cellulosic waiver authority still dominates the rationale. EPA still back calculating ("implied ... [Read Full Article](#)

[US Ethanol Industry Razzes 2019 Renewable Fuel Standard Proposal: The Why and the Who](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) The 2019 proposed US Renewable Fuel Standard proposed volumes attracted a major raspberry from the ethanol industry. As the American Coalition for Ethanol noted: "Unfortunately, EPA continues to take actions which undermine the letter and spirit of the statute and harm the rural economy. While refiners ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Change of Plans: EPA Hearings](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) EPA will no longer hold public hearings in Washington, D.C., Detroit and Los Angeles on the administration's proposed freeze of Obama-era fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks,

Bloomberg Environment reports. Instead the EPA and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will hold two public ... [Read Full Article](#)

[NFU, FUE & UAI Announce Alliance to Pursue Expanded Use Of American-Grown, High-Octane Biofuels](#)

(National Farmers Union) In an effort to expand the market for domestic agriculture products, reduce harmful emissions, and provide consumers with lower cost fuel choices, National Farmers Union, Farmers Union Enterprises and the Urban Air Initiative announced they have formed a strategic alliance to expand the use of American-grown biofuels. The ... [Read Full Article](#)

[ACE Releases White Paper on the Low Carbon Benefits of Corn Ethanol during 31st Annual Conference](#)

(American Coalition for Ethanol) The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) announced the official release of a White Paper today (August 17, 2018) entitled “The Case for Properly Valuing the Low Carbon Benefits of Corn Ethanol,” coinciding with a general session panel at the 31st annual ACE conference in Minneapolis which highlighted the ... [Read Full Article](#)

[Pennsylvania’s Next Biorefinery: Discussion Held at the Penn State Energy Days Annual Conference, 2018](#)

by Anahita Bharadwaj (Pennsylvania State University for Advanced Biofuels USA) Energy Days, 2018 at The Pennsylvania State University- University Park, brought together leading researchers, government agencies, industries, non-profit organizations and academics in the field of energy to understand the current

challenges in this area. This year saw some inspiring and enthusiastic ... [Read Full Article](#)

Latest in Federal Litigation



Litigation is considered to address complaints about EPA's "small" refinery waivers of obligations under the Renewable Fuel Standard.

And Supreme Court nominee **Brett Kavanaugh's** history of supporting fossil fuel interests when opposed to agriculture and farming interests gets an assessment from Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL).

For more on federal litigation, [click here](#).

[Guest View: Kavanaugh Is No Friend to Midwestern Farmers](#)

by Tammy Duckworth (Quad City Times) ... Time and again, he's (Judge Brett Kavanaugh) chosen Big Oil over everyday Americans, serving as the lone dissenter in decisions that have pitted the fossil fuel industry against our farmers. In a recent case, *Grocery Manufacturers Assoc. v. Environmental Protection Agency*, he proved ... [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Needs to Reallocate Gallons from RFS Waivers](#)

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[RFA, Growth Energy Demand Transparency for Small Refinery Exemptions in New Lawsuit](#)

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Joanne: **If you read some of these articles and say to yourself, "That's Just Wrong!"** then you understand the need for biofuels education. This is not easy

stuff to understand. And reporters (and folks who read their articles and make purchasing and investing decisions based on them) may not have much background in renewable energy or transportation fuels and engines, let alone the intricacies and nuances of the places ***where the rubber of policy meets the road of legislation, regulations and litigation. Heck, even the people working on those laws and regulations could use a refresher.***

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Thanks,

Joanne Ivancic, Executive Director

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