

Federal legislation, regulation, litigation. Policy. Plus Advanced Biofuels USA activities.

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Mountain Laurel in many stages. Like a star, a pillow, a bubble, a wide open shout. Like the mountain laurel, all of us, all of our endeavors, express multiple aspects simultaneously. It can get complicated, eh?

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](#). [Click here](#) to see an example of the New Education Newsletter. And [Click HERE to Subscribe \(Free\)](#).

Watch for it the first week of each month.

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

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



We follow proposed and actual federal legislation. With uncertainty about US environmental policy, let alone renewable transportation fuel policy, import/export issues rise to prominence. Three particular features show up in this month's news: looking for support for export markets, preventing unfair trade practices that conceivably harm US domestic business, and enabling sales of E15 throughout the year around the country.

It's TAX SEASON, so tax policy gets attention, too. For example: biodiesel tax credits, blenders' tax credit, carbon tax.

For more legislative news, [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 our website at www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org.

[An Alternative View of Biodiesel Production Profits: The Role of Retroactively Reinstated Blender Tax Credits](#)

April 13, 2017 – 1:28 pm |

by Scott Irwin (Farm Doc Daily/University of Illinois) Previous farmdoc daily articles (e.g. January 28, 2015; February 11, 2016; March 1, 2017) have documented a "feast or famine" pattern in production profitability of the U.S. biodiesel ...

[It's Not the Tax, It's the EPA.](#)

April 10, 2017 – 10:46 pm |

by Ben Geman (Axios-Axios Generate) Axios' Amy Harder asked an administration official about the prospects of a carbon tax, given that it has been rumored as a possible policy the White House could embrace. The official ...

[The Imports Cometh](#)

April 5, 2017 – 3:09 pm |

by Ron Kotrba (Biomass Magazine) U.S. imports of biomass-based diesel hit extreme heights in 2016, fulfilling a third of the consumption market, driving the domestic biodiesel industry to more actively seek counteracting measures to protect ...

[US Biodiesel Blenders Tax Credit Should Be Considered Despite Lapse: Expert](#)

April 4, 2017 – 7:46 pm |

by Eric Janssen (Platts) The US biodiesel blenders tax credit should be taken into consideration even though the credits have lapsed because it is likely to be retroactively reinstated, according to a recent analysis from an ...

[ACE Takes RVP Message to Hill](#)

April 4, 2017 – 12:59 pm |

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The American Coalition for Ethanol 9th annual DC fly-in last week

brought the "Power by People" message to Capitol Hill, focused on allowing the sale of 15 percent ethanol blends all year ...

Biodiesel Plant Manager Launches Petition to Reform US Tax Credit

April 4, 2017 – 12:53 pm |

by Ron Kotrba (Biodiesel Magazine) A biodiesel plant manager in Mississippi is doing his part to bring attention to the growing momentum to reinstate the expired \$1-per-gallon biodiesel tax credit, and to reform the incentive ...

Multiple State, Federal Bills Introduced to Stop the Spread of E15

March 24, 2017 – 11:31 am

by Daniel Strohl (Hemmings Daily) ... The most extreme of those bills, H.R. 1314, which Virginia Representative Robert Goodlatte introduced, calls for the elimination of the Renewable Fuel Standard, the portion of the Clean ...

Latest on Federal Regulation



The biofuels community remains stirred up over the proper place for obligated parties under the Renewable Fuel Standard and what effect changes would create. Some oil companies lined up on the same side as some biofuels representatives, with allegations that Carl Icahn intentionally caused this regulatory kerfuffle in order to reap personal financial benefit.

We are still asking, "Will He or Won't He?" Donald Trump said many nice things about ethanol and biofuels during the campaign. What does that mean as he governs, including how the RFS will be administered after 2022 when EPA holds all the cards; what the EPA will do about the E15 RVP waiver request; and what will happen to the CAFE fuel economy standards?

In any case, policy uncertainty spooks investors, another topic explored below.

YOU have the opportunity to have your say. The Environmental Protection Agency has asked for ideas about what regulations you think can be eliminated or changed. See below for links to details.

Scroll down for information about regulations related to these topics and others among our [latest postings](#). Others you'll find in the [Federal Regulations](#) category online.

Government Mind Games are Driving Investors Away from Biofuel & Other Bio-Based Projects

April 14, 2017 – 11:21 am |

by Colin Ley (AgFunder News) The closer you get to the commercialization of a development, the harder it becomes to raise capital, and recent government activities around the world are not making life easier for ...

ACE Outlines Ethanol Priorities to EPA on Regulatory Reform Agenda

April 14, 2017 – 10:19 am |

(KTIC Radio) The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) submitted a public comment addressed to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt thanking him for establishing a Regulatory Reform Task Force to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations ...

Syngenta Touts Potential for Cellulosic Ethanol

April 13, 2017 – 6:59 pm |

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) Developments in cellulosic ethanol technology are creating opportunities for American ethanol producers.

Miloud Araba, head of Enogen® technical services at Syngenta, says cellulosic innovation could enable dry grind ethanol producers to meet ...

[A True Superhero, Ethanol Fights for Good](#)

April 13, 2017 – 3:24 pm |

by Dirck Steimel (Iowa Farm Bureau) ... Ethanol has all the elements of a superhero.

Like most good superhero stories, ethanol has humble origins. Farmers in Iowa and other states built the first distilleries a few decades ...

[Automakers Hope to Reach U.S. Deal on 2025 Vehicle Emissions](#)

April 13, 2017 – 11:35 am | [No Comment](#)

by David Shepardson (Reuters) A trade group for automakers said on Tuesday it hopes to reach a deal with California and the Trump administration over vehicle fuel efficiency standards.

Mitch Bainwol, chief executive of the Alliance of ...

[EPA Seeks Public Input on Trump's Regulatory Reform Agenda DEADLINE: May 15, 2017](#)

April 13, 2017 – 11:28 am |

by Tim Devaney (The Hill) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is searching for Obama-era regulations to repeal.

The EPA's regulatory reform task force, established by President Trump's Feb. 24 executive order, is seeking public input on ...

[What's New? What's Happening?: The Digest's Multi-Slide Guide to California's LCFS, and the RFS](#)

April 13, 2017 – 10:34 am |

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In our March Madness series, we've been covering emerging markets and technological pathways – now we turn to two other key drivers, market access and carbon pricing.

There are two approaches ...

[Exclusive: Inside Edge – Trump Advisor Icahn's Big Bet against Biofuels Credits](#)

April 12, 2017 – 11:54 am |

by Chris Prentice and Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters/KFGO) Billionaire investor Carl Icahn's oil refining company, CVR Energy, made a massive bet in 2016 that prices for U.S. government biofuels credits would fall – just before Icahn ...

[Trump on Ethanol: Supportive, but Few Comments](#)

April 11, 2017 – 5:45 pm |

by Patrick Anderson (Argus Leader) President Donald Trump has never tweeted about ethanol. In the course of tens of thousands of posts on his social media platform of choice, the president has posted about oil ...

[New Coalition Launches To Fight for US Renewable Fuel Standard](#)

April 10, 2017 – 10:29 pm |

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, the Main Street Energy Alliance has launched to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to resist the efforts of a small group of special interests including Valero, Monroe Energy ...

[Understanding Land Use Change – Are New Tools Needed?](#)

April 10, 2017 – 11:22 am |

by Jessie Stolark (Energy and Environmental Study Institute) Are we using the right tools to understand land use

change, particularly at the local level, and how can understanding of land use change be improved?
The Renewable Fuel ...

Nebraska Farmers Make the Case for Higher Blends of Ethanol

April 7, 2017 – 1:26 pm |

by Steve White (Nebraska.TV) Pres. Trump says he wants to end job-killing regulations on ethanol, and area farmers suggest a good place to start. "Allow E15 to be sold as normal gasoline, moving forward with that is ...

Foxx: Reducing CAFE Goals Would Be 'Setback'

April 6, 2017 – 3:53 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Jim Lynch (The Detroit News) Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx said he believes a rollback of fuel efficiency standards for cars would be a mistake, and that the regulatory framework for self-driving ...

Singular Focus ... Waiting for EPA

April 6, 2017 – 3:41 pm |

by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) Oil companies, gas station operators and other organizers of the just-launched Main Street Energy Alliance wanted to speak with a single voice in the intensifying wonky debate over which types ...

US Forest Service and Biomass: A Symbiotic Partnership

April 5, 2017 – 3:44 pm |

by Bob Cleaves (Biomass Power Association/Biomass Magazine) More than 100 million trees across California, many located in the federally managed Sierra, Stanislaus and Sequoia National Forests, are dead, owing to a years-long drought and a nasty ...

FedEx CEO Backed by Generals Tries to Nudge Trump on Fuel Rules

April 4, 2017 – 11:25 am |

by John Lippert (Bloomberg) Smith leads effort to position standards as security issue; Group calling for electric vehicles, U.S. oil production — To get Donald Trump to come around to tougher fuel-economy standards, a corporate titan ...

Letter: The Truth about Ethanol

March 31, 2017 – 1:23 pm |

by Neil Kohler (MagicValley.com/Pacific Ethanol) In his March 26 letter, Mr. Chamberlain went from 100 percent right to 100 percent wrong in just a few short words. As he correctly noted, refiners should not be ...

UAI Challenges CRC Ethanol Study, Calls Test Procedures Flawed

March 31, 2017 – 1:04 pm | [No Comment](#)zine) The Urban Air Initiative is calling the results of a new Coordinating Research Council emissions study "one more example of the biased and flawed testing procedures used to penalize ethanol."

The ethanol advocacy ...

Bioeconomy under the Radar

March 30, 2017 – 5:32 pm |

by Chris Clayton (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Leaders Tout Potential Growth, Challenges for Renewable Refinery Products — ... Whether it is spoons, Coke bottles or carpets made out of corn, livestock enzymes for pharmaceuticals, or John ...

Moving the Point of Obligation Is the Latest Misguided Ploy to Undermine the RFS

March 30, 2017 – 3:45 pm |

by Senators Joni Ernst (R-IA) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) (The Hill) Six billion gallons. That is the approximate amount of ethanol produced in Iowa and Illinois each and every year. It is more than the ...

Senators Press Icahn on White House Influence, Business Conflicts

March 28, 2017 – 2:31 pm |

by Valerie Volcovici (Reuters) Several Democratic senators pressed billionaire investor Carl Icahn on Monday to clarify his role as an adviser to President Donald Trump, saying his position in the administration raised “alarming” questions about potential ...

New, Safer U.S. Rail Cars Gather Dust even as Ethanol Trains Grow Longer

March 27, 2017 – 7:24 pm |

by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters) ... But the incident in Iowa underscores the growing risk of another serious accident along with the increasing volume of the biofuel being moved in unit trains that ...

UAI Coalition Challenges Clean Air Act Interpretation

March 27, 2017 – 5:42 pm |

by Dave VanderGriend (Urban Air Initiative/Ethanol Producer Magazine) For decades, the U.S. EPA has insisted that it gets to decide how much ethanol can be used in gasoline. If ethanol producers want higher ethanol blends ...

Fuel Economy Rules: Someone Is Listening

March 27, 2017 – 2:37 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Doug Durante (Clean Fuels Development Coalition/Biofuels Digest) The recent announcement that the Trump Administration was taking another look at Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards was a welcome reality check for what is a complex ...

Waste-Stream, Slip-Stream, Main-Stream: The Born Global Slip-Stream Challenge Gets Underway

March 27, 2017 – 1:26 pm

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) There are six oddly-named streams in the bioeconomy, and it reminds one of the nomenclature of subatomic quarks. There is upstream, midstream, downstream, main-stream, waste-stream, and slip-stream. But of all ...

CARB Finds Vehicle Standards Are Achievable and Cost-Effective

March 27, 2017 – 1:21 pm |

(California Air Resources Board) CARB votes to move forward with greenhouse gas reductions and zero emission programs through 2025; action sets the table for accelerating programs post-2025 — Today (March 24, 2017) California re-affirmed its ...

U.S. Oil Refiners Push for Biofuels Overhaul at White House

March 27, 2017 – 12:53 pm |

by Chris Prentice (Reuters) U.S. oil refining executives met with a senior official in President Donald Trump’s administration at the White House last week to argue their position for an overhaul of the nation’s biofuels ...

The Long Road to Cellulosic Ethanol

March 24, 2017 – 2:12 pm |

by Stephanie Mercier (Farm Journal Foundation/AgWeb) This blog will present the author’s perspective on a wide range of timely agricultural policy topics, touching on both domestic and international issues.

...

The long term answer, that ultimately ethanol will ...

[RFA Trains 200th Ethanol Industry Employee on FSMA Preventive Controls for Animal Food Requirements](#)

March 24, 2017 – 11:52 am |

by Kelsey Quargnenti (Renewable Fuels Association) This month the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) hit a major milestone with its Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) training program on Preventive Controls for Animal Food. During the latest course, ...

[DC's Climate Change: Renewables Adapting to Shifting Political Weather](#)

March 23, 2017 – 11:11 am

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... Over at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, new lab director Martin Keller told the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association that “renewable energy needs a new story to tell.” The Denver ...

[2017-'18 RVOs Assumed Intact as Regulatory Freeze Deadline Passes](#)

March 22, 2017 – 3:12 pm |

by Ron Kotrba (Biodiesel Magazine) March 21 represents the end of the 60-day freeze period on new regulations pending review, implemented by the incoming U.S. administration Jan. 20. Among the regulations on hold during the ...

[New Study Links Habitat Destruction to Ethanol Production](#)

March 22, 2017 – 1:58 pm |

by Jordan Lubetkin (National Wildlife Federation) Millions of acres of wildlife habitat are being lost to crop production, according to a new peer-reviewed study published today in the journal Environmental Research Letters, which found a ...

[As OPEC Falls, What Is the Liberated Market Signaling to Producers?](#)

March 22, 2017 – 11:49 am |

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... There's a theory going around that biofuels are “government fuels” — and prices are set around a table in Washington, DC. But if you visit the big biodiesel and ...

[National Farmers Union Passes Resolution to Support E30 Use](#)

March 20, 2017 – 8:16 pm |

by Tom Bryan (Ethanol Producer Magazine) National Farmers Union called for the U.S. EPA to open the market to higher blends of ethanol in a landmark resolution passed during the group's annual meeting held last ...

[Senators Urge Trump to Maintain RFS Point of Obligation](#)

March 20, 2017 – 8:02 pm |

(Ethanol Producer Magazine) Nearly two dozen U.S. senators have signed a letter advising President Trump not to change the federal biofuels program's longtime compliance protocol. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., today led ...

[Icahn Bets against Renewables Market He Wants Trump to Overhaul](#)

March 20, 2017 – 5:39 pm |

by Zachary Mider and Jennifer A Dlouhy (Bloomberg) Special adviser to president urges change in EPA rule; 'It's bothersome that one guy can control RIN markets' — Carl Icahn, the billionaire investor and adviser to President ...

[Latest in Federal Litigation](#)



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

This month, the latest status on an existing criminal fraud case and not-exactly-litigation trade complaints.

Find more items about federal litigation on our website, click [here](#).

N.J. Man Sentenced to 5 Years Prison for Biodiesel Fraud

April 10, 2017 – 9:25 pm |

(Reuters) The owner of a New Jersey feedstock processor was sentenced to five years in prison for his role in a scheme that generated fraudulent tax and renewable fuel credits, the U.S. Department of Justice ...

Dumping Complaint Could Kill Argentine Biodiesel Exports, Groups Says

April 4, 2017 – 11:13 am |

by Maximiliano Rizzi (Reuters) Argentina's biodiesel exports could be devastated if the U.S. government imposed anti-dumping duties on the country based on a complaint by the U.S. National Biodiesel Board, the heads of two local industry ...

U.S. National Biodiesel Board Petitions against 'Illegal' Biodiesel Imports

March 23, 2017 – 5:15 pm |

by Christine Prentice and Michael Hirtzer (Reuters) The National Biodiesel Board said on Thursday it has filed a petition to the U.S. government to investigate imports from Argentina and Indonesia, saying they have violated trade laws ...

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, [READ MORE](#)

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