


Federal legislation, regulation, litigation. Policy.


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



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Dancing Daylilies. A sure sign of summer, a picture of joy, a moment to take a break from policy tensions listed below.

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.

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

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice, Carbon Tax, Appropriations, Green Bank, Tax Credits for Bio-Based Diesel and Chemicals and enabling sales of E15 throughout the year around the country made legislative news this month.

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 our website at www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org.

[Senate Passes Ag, Energy Appropriations Bills – Increases Over House Package](#) by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) On Thursday, July 20, Senate Appropriators reported several spending bills for FY2018 out of committee, including budget proposals for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the ...

[Driving the News: Democratic Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island and Brian Schatz of Hawaii Are Introducing a Carbon Tax Bill](#) by Amy Harder (Axios) Democratic Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island and Brian Schatz of Hawaii are introducing a carbon tax bill next Wednesday at the American Enterprise Institute. If that sounds familiar, that's because they did the same ...

[New York Green Bank Could Go Nationwide](#) by Bill Morris (Habitat Magazine) Bills before Congress would devote \$10 billion to clean-energy projects. — The New York Green Bank, which has been financing solar, wind and other sustainable-energy projects statewide since 2014, has proven so ...

[Bill Aims to Establish Tax Credit for Biobased Chemicals](#) by Erin Voegelé (Biomass Magazine) Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., recently introduced legislation that aims to establish a 15-cent-per-pound production tax credit for renewable chemicals made from biomass.

The bill, known as the Renewable Chemicals Act of ...

[NATSO, Trade Groups Applaud Biodiesel Blenders' Tax Credit Legislation](#) by Lauren Tyler (NGT News) NATSO, the national association representing truckstops and travel plazas, along with the Advanced Biofuels Association, National Association of Convenience Stores, Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America (SIGMA), Petroleum Marketers ...

[Get Yer Hot Hot E15 Action Here!](#) by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) Sen. Jim Inhofe will take to the Senate floor to opine on the need for Republicans to work together to support fossil fuels. Sources familiar with Inhofe's thinking say he'd ...

[Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Op-Ed: Renewable Fuel Standard Good For Farmers, Consumers, Environment](#) by Dale McCall (Rocky Mountain Farmers Union/Brian Allmer Radio Network) America's farming communities are facing an economic crisis. Not since the 1980s have farm incomes declined so far so fast. The Wall Street Journal called it the ...

[Steelworkers No Fans of E15](#) by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) The United Steelworkers fear Sen. Deb Fischer's bill to allow year-round sale of 15 percent ethanol fuel could allow more smog. The union sent a letter Thursday to all 100 ...

[Iowa Ethanol Supporters Push for Expanded E15 Access](#) by Rod Swoboda (Wallaces Farmer) Proponents call on Congress to support legislation to remove barriers to make E15 ethanol blend available year-round. — The U.S. Senate is considering legislation that would change the language in ...

[Taxing Carbon — Letting Markets Work](#) by Tom Ewing (Renewable Energy World) A new business-based climate advocacy group stepped into the CO2 spotlight this summer. The Climate Leadership Council (CLC) took center stage with op-eds in the nation's biggest dailies and a full-page ad ...

[House Appropriators Make Significant Cuts to Farm Energy Programs in FY18 Agriculture Spending Bill](#) by Jessie Stolarck (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) On June 29, the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee approved a spending bill for FY2018 providing \$144.0 billion to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), \$876 million lower ...

[Trump's Pitch for U.S. 'Energy Dominance' Is Dominated by Misleading Claims](#) by Steven Mufson and Chris Mooney (The Washington Post) The White House has branded this week "energy week," rolling out a buzzword, "dominance," and replaying lines from last year's Trump campaign in an effort to ...

[House Agriculture Appropriations Bill Axes BCAP, Slashes Loan Guarantees and REAP](#) by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, the draft House Appropriations Committee's FY2018 Agriculture Appropriations bill was released, and cut the Rural Energy for America Program from \$50 million to \$9 million, cut the Section 9003 ...

[IBB and IRFA Go to Capitol Hill](#) (Biofuels International) Members of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) and Iowa Biodiesel Board (IBB) have gone to Capitol Hill in Washington to urge Iowa's Congressional delegation to keep fighting for a reformed biodiesel tax ...

[Ethanol Is Not Subsidized, Is Good Choice for All](#) by Mark M. Palmer (Renewable Fuels Nebraska/The Grand Island Independent) Gerald Kosmicki's June 25 letter attacking U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer for supporting ethanol displayed a complete lack of knowledge regarding current fuel economics. Unfortunately, many ...

[Summertime Relief at the Pump](#) by Emily Skor (Growth Energy/Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... Federal fuel regulations play a major role. That's because warm summer weather makes it tougher to hold down automotive emissions, so the U.S. EPA requires cleaner fuel blends ...

[Emphasis on Oil Has Made Ethanol Unprofitable](#) by Gerald Kosmicki (Grand Island Independent) ... Why not just say farmers need a higher price for their corn, rather than the posturing concern for the environment? We had \$7 corn during the Obama years, but ...

[Gasoline Lobbyists Go to Battle to Slow Ethanol's Rise](#) by James Osborne (Houston Chronicle) ... With the oil industry

lobbying vigorously in opposition, the future of the bill, introduced by a bipartisan coalition of Midwestern lawmakers, remains in question. But the proposal, nonetheless, represents the ascendance ...

Latest on Federal Regulation



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will officially open a public comment period on the latest renewable volume obligations for the Renewable Fuel Standard, with the comment period deadline on Aug. 31. Public comment hearing is scheduled for August 1.

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.

[Ethanol Blog: RFS Public Comment Period Opens Friday](#)

July 21, 2017 – by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will officially open a public comment period on Friday on the latest renewable volume obligations for the Renewable Fuel Standard, with the comment ...

[EPA Schedules Hearing on RFS Proposal for Aug. 1](#)

July 12, 2017 – by Erin Voegelé (Biomass Magazine) The U.S. EPA has announced plans to hold a public hearing Aug. 1 in Washington, D.C., for its recently released rule to set 2018 renewable volume obligations (RVOs) under the ...

[Pruitt Raises Idea of Higher Levels of Ethanol-Free Gasoline](#)

July 7, 2017 – by Chris Clayton (DTN The Progressive Farmer) ... (EPA Administrator Scott) Pruitt also noted that EPA will be “assessing higher levels of ethanol-free gasoline.”

Ethanol-free gasoline translates into higher volumes of aromatic chemicals to raise ...

[AFPM Encouraged by EPA Proposed Changes to Biofuel Mandates](#)

July 5, 2017 – (American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers/PR Newswire) Following the release of the 2018 Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) for the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), AFPM President and CEO Chet Thompson released the following statement:

“We are pleased the Environmental Protection ...

[RFS Proposal Stays the Course By Maintaining Conventional Biofuel Requirement at Statutory Level](#)

July 5, 2017 – (Renewable Fuels Association) Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its proposed Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) renewable volume obligations (RVOs) for 2018. The agency proposed a total renewable fuel volume of 19.24 billion gallons (BG), ...

[NBB Statement on EPA's RFS Proposal: This Ignores Reality and the Law](#)

July 5, 2017 – (National Biodiesel Board) Proposed Volume Requirements for Advanced Biofuels Fail to Recognize the Continued Growth of Industry — Today the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) responded to the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal on the ...

[EPA Announces Proposed Volume Standards for 2018, and the Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2019](#)

July 5, 2017 – (Environmental Protection Agency) On July 5, 2017 EPA issued proposed volume requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard program for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel for calendar year 2018. EPA also proposed biomass-based diesel volume standards for calendar year ...

[Why High-Octane Gas Costs So Much More Than Regular](#)

July 4, 2017 – by Clifford Atiyeh (Car and Driver) ... As gas prices tumbled over the past three years, the premium-fuel premium skyrocketed from 35 cents per gallon in 2013 to 47 cents in 2015 and reached 50 ...

[Despite Progress, Algae Diesel Stills Years To Go In Development](#)

July 4, 2017 – by Tim Pearce (Daily Caller) ExxonMobil reported in June that scientists had developed a way to double the size of natural algae that could be used as biofuel to take the place of diesel, according ...

[TSCA Framework Rules Offer Manufacturers Regulatory Clarity](#)

June 30, 2017 – (National Law Review) On the one year anniversary of major amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued three new "framework" rules on how it plans to prioritize and evaluate ...

[Research Progressing on How to Spur Wide Use of Aviation Biofuels](#)

June 30, 2017 – (Penn State News) Slowed as much by extremely low oil prices as supply-chain and technological challenges, the effort to integrate biofuels into the nation's aviation fuel supply is nonetheless progressing, according to a researcher in ...

[Congress Needs to Protect Renewable Fuel Law](#)

June 28, 2017 – by Jim Harris (Natural Resource Report) Please stand with me and ask our Oregon representatives in Washington, D.C. to protect the partnership between fuel and agricultural by preserving the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) as is, ...

[Ethanol Is Not Subsidized, Is Good Choice for All](#)

June 28, 2017 –by Mark M. Palmer (Renewable Fuels Nebraska/The Grand Island Independent) Gerald Kosmicki's June 25 letter attacking U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer for supporting ethanol displayed a complete lack of knowledge regarding current fuel economics. Unfortunately, many ...

[Letter: Ethanol Production Helps Local Farmers](#)

June 28, 2017 – by David Howell (The Herald Bulletin) While increased production is usually a good thing, the bumper crop is leading to a global glut of corn and a third straight year of tumbling commodity prices.

[Regulating the Indirect Land Use Carbon Emissions from Biofuels Imposes High Hidden Costs on Fuel Consumers](#)

June 28, 2017 – (Phys.Org/ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) ... To penalize the carbon emissions from this so-called indirect land use change, the USEPA and California Air Resources Board include an indirect land use change factor when considering the ...

[Summertime Relief at the Pump](#)

June 27, 2017 – by Emily Skor (Growth Energy/Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... Federal fuel regulations play a major role. That's because warm summer weather makes it tougher to hold down automotive emissions, so the U.S. EPA requires cleaner fuel blends ...

[California LCFS Guides Advanced Biofuels Industry](#)

June 27, 2017 – by Heather Zhang (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Carbon credit prices recover and multiple new pathways are certified as the state's program gets back on track. — California's efforts to reduce carbon emissions from the transport sector ...

[Iowa Renewable Fuels Association Says President Trump's Remarks Supporting Biofuels Show Need For Administration Action](#)

June 26, 2017 – (Biofuels Journal) On June 21, in his remarks to Iowa ag leaders at Kirkwood Community College and again at his Cedar Rapids rally, President Donald Trump reiterated his support for American renewable fuels.

[Representatives Press Pruitt on Icahn's Role in Shaping the RFS](#)

June 26, 2017 – by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On June 21, democratic leaders in the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt asking him to detail policies and procedures the ...

[Gasoline Lobbyists Go to Battle to Slow Ethanol's Rise](#)

June 26, 2017 – by James Osborne (Houston Chronicle) ... With the oil industry lobbying vigorously in opposition, the future of the bill, introduced by a bipartisan coalition of Midwestern lawmakers, remains in question. But the proposal, nonetheless, represents the ascendance ...

[Trump's Comments Please Ethanol Industry](#)

June 23, 2017 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The ethanol industry was thrilled with President Donald Trump's visit to Iowa this week where he put agriculture and biofuels in the spotlight.

"We're here today to talk about how we're going ...

[Thoughts from the Fuel Ethanol Workshop and National Advanced Biofuels Conference and Expo](#)

June 23, 2017 – by Douglas Root* (Advanced Biofuels USA) From the Welcome Reception on Monday to the last session on Wednesday, there was new information presented and new developments reported.

At the opening of the expo, many vendors were ...

[EPA Warned Fiat Chrysler about Diesel Defeat Devices in 2015](#)

June 20, 2017 –by Richard Read (WSET/The Car Connection) In February, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' CEO, Sergio Marchionne, warned investors that his company could soon face a Dieselgate crisis of its own.

As it turns out, Marchionne had plenty of ...

Latest in Federal Litigation



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

International trade and Carl Icahn's possible self-benefiting influence on Renewable Fuels Standard policy appear in this month's news.

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

[NBB Considers Legal Options Regarding Surging Argentinian Biodiesel Imports Since Filing of Trade Petition](#)

July 7, 2017 – (National Biodiesel Board) New data show that dumped and subsidized biodiesel imports from Argentina continue unabated and, in fact, have further surged into the United States. In March of 2017, the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) ...

[EPA Targets Biofuel Imports and Biodiesel, HUH?](#)

July 7, 2017 – by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) EPA wants to cut imports of biofuels, but the biodiesel and advanced biofuels industries are mystified as to why it's getting into that arena, Pro's Eric Wolff reports . . .

[150+: The Digest's 2017 Multi-Slide Guide to Renewable Energy Group](#)

July 7, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Renewable Energy Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: REGI) is the US' biggest producer of biomass-based diesel, and leading provider of cleaner, lower carbon intensity products and services. REG utilizes an integrated procurement, ...

[NBB Considers Legal Options Regarding Surging Argentinian Biodiesel Imports Since Filing of Trade Petition](#)

June 29, 2017 – (National Biodiesel Board) New data show that dumped and subsidized biodiesel imports from Argentina continue unabated and, in fact, have further surged into the United States. In March of 2017, the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) ...

[Watchdog Group Sues EPA to Access Communications with Icahn](#)

June 28, 2017 – by Valerie Volcovici (Reuters) A U.S. watchdog group filed a lawsuit in a federal court on Tuesday to force the Environmental Protection Agency to release communications with billionaire investor Carl Icahn, who it says tried to ...

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](#)

Grant Opportunities

For a list of grant opportunities, [CLICK HERE](#).

You may have noticed that our website is looking good again. After a WordPress update, our old theme wouldn't

recognize paragraph spacing. Special Thanks to Jay Pipavat for making the fix at a fair price for this struggling nonprofit.
He can be contacted at <http://eastwestweb.com> Email : jay@eastwestweb.com Skype : jay.pipavat88

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