

Federal legislation, regulation, litigation. Scholarships and Competitions. Plus Educational Resources. Recent Original Writings. And Advanced Biofuels USA activities.

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Reminder - **Advanced Biofuels USA Split Newsletter** into Two Parts: **Conference Calendar**, which is sent separately; and **Policy, Legislation, Regulations and Happenings**—this one. All can be found archived on our [NEWS](#) page.

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

New Tags: [2016 US Presidential Campaign](#) and [2016 US House and Senate Campaigns](#)

ELECTION 2016

During the Presidential and Congressional campaign season, Advanced Biofuels USA is following comments by candidates to help **you** make sustainable renewable transportation fuels part of the 2016 campaign conversation. Click on these tags to keep in touch with the latest: [2016 US Presidential Campaign](#) and [2016 US House and Senate Campaigns](#). To find tags on [our website](#), just scroll down to the bottom of the right margin.

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



We follow proposed and actual federal legislation. Here are some key stories. 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.

National Biodiesel Board Commends Proposed Legislation to Extend Biodiesel Tax Incentive Through 2019

May 13, 2016 – 6:36 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Biofuels Journal/National Biodiesel Board) The National Biodiesel Board released the following statement from Vice President of Federal Affairs Anne Steckel after Reps. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., and Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., introduced legislation to extend the biodiesel tax ...

Republicans Need to Embrace Renewables — on Their Terms

May 13, 2016 – 5:06 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Mark R. Maddox (American Action Forum/Livingston Group/The Hill) ... There is heartburn over subsidies, including concerns about federal dollars being used to support a largely private-sector enterprise that the majority of states have mandated. As well, ...

Oil Market Manipulation Is Alive and Well

May 13, 2016 – 4:53 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Jim Talent (Americans for Energy Security and Innovation/The Hill) Opponents of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) claim that the free hand of an unrestricted marketplace will guide biofuels into our fuel supply, driving economic ...

Cruz Aims to Declaw Energy Security Hawks with Appropriations Amendment

May 13, 2016 – 3:42 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... The Def Con 2 alert from the biofuels educational and advocacy group (Advanced Biofuels USA) noted a House Subcommittee draft for defense appropriations, which had this language in Section 8132: None ...

Evidence of Benefits of Biofuels in Combating Climate Change is More than Ample

May 12, 2016 – 3:14 pm | [No Comment](#)

(25 x '25) ... While recognition of the role of agriculture in meeting climate change challenges is growing among world leaders, it is of concern that biofuels and the low-carbon benefits they provide, especially when compared ...

Lawmakers Seek Ethanol Cap: House Bill Would Codify Ethanol Blend Wall

May 11, 2016 – 1:41 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The ethanol industry has hit the blend wall where total production exceeds the available E10 market, and a small group of federal lawmakers wants to keep it that ...

Defense Approps Stops Military from Spending on Low-GHG Fuels

May 11, 2016 – 1:29 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Eric Wolff (Politico's Morning Energy 5/12/2016) Straightening ME out on Section 526: The defense appropriation draft defunds any implementation of Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Section 526, as ...

Inaction in Congress Helping Ethanol Right Now

May 4, 2016 – 6:21 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Chris Clayton (DTN The Progressive Farmer) ... Ethanol also remains stuck in a battle with EPA over vapor pressure with 15% ethanol over the summer months. 10% ethanol, E10, has such a waiver so it ...

FutureMetrics Publishes Paper on Woody Biomass for Energy

May 3, 2016 – 6:43 pm | [No Comment](#)

FutureMetrics has a new whitepaper. A recent Washington Post editorial about using wood for energy was poorly informed. It was based on a letter sent to Congress by 65 "experts". FutureMetrics' new white paper is, ...

Biomass Provision in Bipartisan Energy Bill Touches Environmental Flash Point

April 29, 2016 – 6:48 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Environmental and Energy Study Institute) ... In the sweeping measure that was overall non-controversial, one provision in particular has some environmental groups in apoplexy – the categorization of biomass as carbon neutral.

...

Passed by voice vote ...

Food & Ag Groups Urge Support for Biotech Education Provision

April 25, 2016 – 5:20 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Karen Batra (Biotech Now) As the House Committee on Appropriations marks up the FY2017 agriculture spending bill, the Committee is considering \$3 million for consumer education and outreach to “promote understanding and acceptance of” biotechnology, ...

Republicans Propose Bill to Scrap Tax Credits for Animal Fat Biodiesel

April 22, 2016 – 7:02 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Meghan Sapp (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, seven Republican US Representatives led by Randy Weber of Texas have submitted a bill to disallow certain biodiesel and alternative fuel tax credits for fuels derived from animal ...

Congress Tells EPA Biomass Is Carbon Neutral. Now What?

April 22, 2016 – 2:33 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Brittany Patterson (E&E/Climatewire) Two amendments tucked inside the bipartisan energy bill that passed the Senate yesterday are elevating the question of whether biomass is a renewable energy source on par with wind and solar in ...

Latest Federal Regulation Posts



The waiting game in on for the Office of Management and Budget at the White House to make decisions about enforcement of the Renewable Fuel Standard. Word is due soon on the RVO (renewable volume obligation) and on whether RINs will be available for biofuels that use feedstock material that has been partially processed into oils or sugars.

Methane rules and discussions about the carbon neutrality of woody biomass may not include biofuels directly, but will have an impact. 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.

EPA Finalizes Stronger Methane Emission Rules

May 13, 2016 – 2:59 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Devin Henry (The Hill) The Obama administration on Thursday finalized a new rule designed to cut methane emissions from the oil and natural gas sector, pushing a stronger standard than one proposed last summer.

The ...

The E15 Perspective from Those Marketing the Fuel

May 12, 2016 – 5:51 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Maura Keller (Fuel Marketer News) ... The argument among those marketers and retailers that have embraced the fuel is that E15 fuel allows them to market a cleaner-burning, higher-octane fuel that can technically be used by ...

EPA Brings Biofuel Production Changes To White House

May 12, 2016 – 5:03 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Kali Hays (Law360) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday sent some proposed changes to its Renewable Fuel Standard program to the White House for review, as the agency looks to promote the production ...

Meeting 2025 CAFE Good for Consumers, Necessary for Climate; Getting There No Easy Feat

May 11, 2016 – 5:50 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Environmental and Energy Study Institute) ... To achieve CAFE for the light duty fleet – there is no one-sized fits all solution. Considering each potential CAFE compliance pathway alone — biofuels, improvements in fuel efficiency and ...

Cellulosic Growth Likely for Ethanol Industry

May 9, 2016 – 6:42 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Terry Anderson (Lee Agri-Media/Iowa Farmer Today) Great market opportunities exist for the ethanol industry, Doug Durante said as he opened the Ethanol 2016: Emerging Issues Forum April 28.

“We can help the auto industry meet ...

Energy Secretary: U.S. Must Be Energy Independent

May 9, 2016 – 4:27 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Donnelle Eller (Des Moines Register) Energy security remains a top concern, even with growing U.S. supplies of oil, natural gas

and renewable energy, said U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, kicking off a public forum on energy policies, electric markets ...

THE REGULARS: Clean Energy Incentives Produce Spectrum of Benefits for Iowa

May 4, 2016 – 7:16 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Katie Colling (Sioux City Journal) ... So my question is, why should non-farming Iowans care about RFS or any of the tax incentives for production of alternative energy forms? ... Iowa now has 41 corn ethanol plants ...

Farmers to Have Role in Changing Ethanol Industry

May 4, 2016 – 7:08 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Jessica Rose Spangler (Lancaster Farming) Ethanol isn't a new concept. Using corn to make it isn't either. And Pennsylvania even has a plant to create it, Pennsylvania Grain Processing LLC in Clearfield, which is capable ...

Tenacity Required to Secure Advanced Biofuels Future

May 4, 2016 – 5:59 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Michael McAdams (Advanced Biofuels Association/Biomass Magazine) Once again, we enter spring awaiting the U.S. EPA's proposal for the renewable volumes obligations (RVO) for the next year. After six years in this cycle, we know ...

RFS Central to America's Manufacturing Strength

May 4, 2016 – 4:24 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Leif Magnusson (CLAAS Global Sales America Inc./Association of Equipment Manufacturers/Morning Consult) We have heard a lot about the importance of manufacturers during this election season, and as the head of a manufacturing business in ...

Co-Optima Stakeholder Listening Day Summary Report

April 28, 2016 – 8:18 pm | [No Comment](#)

(U.S. Department of Energy) Bioenergy Technologies Office, in partnership with the Vehicle Technologies Office and DOE national laboratories, hosted a stakeholder listening day last June to concurrently investigate the optimization of fuels and vehicles. Formerly called ...

Make Biofuels Part of Paris Agreement Implementation

April 22, 2016 – 3:19 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Joanna Schroeder (DomesticFuel.com) ... Nearly a third of global GHGs come from the transportation sector making it a key area of focus in efforts to reduce emissions. Studies have shown that biofuels, like ethanol, are ...

EPA Submits 2017 RFS Rule to White House OMB for Review

April 19, 2016 – 12:53 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The U.S. EPA delivered the proposed rule for the 2017 renewable fuel standard (RFS) to the White House Office of Management and Budget on April 15. OMB review marks

Latest Federal Litigation Posts



Federal litigation news sometimes overlaps with Federal Regulation items.

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

High Court Turns Away Exxon's Challenge To \$236M MTBE Verdict

May 16, 2016 – 10:43 am | [No Comment](#)

by Keith Goldberg (Law 360) The U.S. Supreme Court refused Monday to review a \$236 million trial judgment against ExxonMobil Corp. in a groundwater contamination case in New

Hampshire, leaving in place a verdict the energy ...

UAI Calls Court Decision on MOVES Model a Temporary Setback

May 11, 2016 – 7:22 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Urban Air Initiative/Ethanol Producer Magazine) The effort to stop the U.S. EPA from implementing a model that unfairly blames ethanol for increased emissions hit a "temporary setback," according to officials from the Urban Air Initiative ...

The Growing Problem of Patent Trolling

April 28, 2016 – 7:40 pm | [No Comment](#)

Lauren Cohen, Umit G. Gurun, Scott Duke Kominers (Science Magazine) The last decade has seen a sharp rise in patent litigation in the United States; 2015 has one of the highest patent lawsuit counts on ...

On The Road

Could Biofuels Be Part of the Future for “Delmarva: A Region of Possibilities”?

“Don’t come to listen, come to act.” That’s what the invitation from the Rural Maryland Council, USDA Rural Development office and Maryland Broadband Cooperative said. We were invited to connect for a day with other public innovators interested in moving Delmarva forward as a thriving region.



stakeholder database of those cultural issues that limited collaboration

This group will be meeting again by to work on putting together some kind of season.

For many years, Advanced Biofuels USA has seen biofuels in the future of the peninsula comprised of parts of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Four years’ worth of reports (2007-2010) from the [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#) touted biofuels as a way to balance energy, economy and environmental needs. We encouraged a landowner group to explore the possibilities of switchgrass as a biofuel feedstock. We watched development of anaerobic digesters as a way to use poultry litter. We followed a feasibility study by the University of Virginia and others about jetfuel production in the area. We’ve met with faculty at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore about research they are doing with biofuels feedstock that could remediate legacy phosphorus from farmland.

So, this seemed a good opportunity to find out more about how people who lived and worked on the Delmarva thought about biofuels in the region and **Joanne Ivancic**, Advanced Biofuels USA executive director attended.



The group she was with decided to create a interested in working through regulatory, legal and among the different parts of the Delmarva.

conference call in mid-June; and expects to continue gathering of stakeholders after the summer tourist

She expects that this group could grow to become a forum for tackling region-wide environmental and development issues. If you are on the Delmarva and see yourself as a stakeholder who would like to participate in this group, please give her a call (301-644-1395) or drop her an email (info@advancedbiofuelsusa.org).

More Educational Resources

Presentations for Public Use

Just a reminder: In the [Biofuels Basics](#) section of the Advanced Biofuels USA website, you can find PowerPoint presentations for use “as is” or as resources for your own slide show.



Most recently, a presentation was prepared to give students an introduction to advanced biofuels, and to teach about researching online using the Advanced Biofuels USA website as a library resource that links to articles in publications around the world.

Designed to encourage students to discuss the role of judgment and discernment when doing online research, to discuss how to look for bias that might be reflected in what they read online.

Download Presentation: [Researching STEM/Biofuels Topics Online](#)

Educational News

Tracy Area High School Visits Highwater Ethanol

May 13, 2016 – 6:28 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) Twenty-five students from Tracy Area High School toured Highwater Ethanol today to get a better understanding of clean Minnesota-produced renewable energy.

During the two-hour-long tour, the students toured the various processes of ethanol ...

Bioenergy Institute for Educators Adds Spark to Wisconsin Teacher's Classroom

May 11, 2016 – 6:53 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Leslie Shown (Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center) Given the shouts and cheers emanating from Lisa Andresen’s classroom, one might guess that Room 105 doubles as the school’s gym. In fact, these are the sounds of ...

The Future of Bioenergy Is in This Book-less Library

May 10, 2016 – 10:14 am | [No Comment](#)

by Cory Hatch (Renewable Energy World) The Bioenergy Feedstock Library contains no books. What it does contain is information about biomass — organic material such as corn stover, switchgrass, wood chips and wheat straw. Nearly ...

RFA Launching Boating Campaign to Combat E10 Misinformation

May 6, 2016 – 4:33 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association/Ethanol Producer Magazine) As Memorial Day weekend approaches later this month and people start heading out to the beaches and on the water, the Renewable Fuels Association is launching an ad campaign today ...

Cessna 182 Crosses Country on Biofuel

May 4, 2016 – 4:39 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) Ross McCurdy, a science teacher from Ponaganset High School in Glocester, Rhode Island, has flown to Santa Monica, California, and back in a 1980 diesel-powered Cessna 182 owned by a ...

Guardian Energy Hosts 'Take Your Child To Work Day'

May 3, 2016 – 4:06 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) On April 28, the Guardian Energy ethanol plant in Janesville hosted 24 children at its inaugural Take Your Child To Work Day.

Coinciding with the national Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work day ...

BETO Hosts Roundtable Discussion on Bioenergy with 4-H Youth Leaders from Across the Nation

April 28, 2016 – 8:22 pm | [No Comment](#)

(U.S. Department of Energy) The U.S. Department of Energy's Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) hosted a roundtable discussion with a group of 4-H youth delegates from across the country on April 12, 2016. The roundtable, which ...

Pipestone Area High School Visits Highwater Ethanol

April 27, 2016 – 3:42 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) Close to 70 high school students from Pipestone Area High School visited Highwater Ethanol today to get a better understanding of how clean Minnesota-grown renewable energy is produced.

During the tour, the students were briefed ...

Biofuel Plane Makes Stop in Walnut Ridge

April 19, 2016 – 1:18 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Seth Stephenson (WMCActionNews5.com) A Rhode Island science teacher made a stop in Walnut Ridge Sunday during his cross country flight using a Cessna powered by biofuel. Ross McCurdy, the pilot, teaches science and alternative energy at ...

ORNL Hosts Southeast Bioenergy Meeting, Study Tour

April 18, 2016 – 7:34 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Oak Ridge National Laboratory/Ethanol Producer Magazine) Researchers and others interested in establishing a sustainable bioeconomy in the U.S. are taking part in a five-day study tour led by the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National ...

[u can help students attend conferences, please do. It's an incredibly valuable experience.](#)

Scholarships and Competitions

Create the Future Design Contest Accepting 2016 Entries DEADLINE: July 1, 2016

May 11, 2016 – 7:05 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Create the Future Design Contest) The Create the Future Design Contest was launched in 2002 by the publishers of NASA Tech Briefs magazine to help stimulate and reward engineering innovation. The annual event has attracted ...

[CBMNet Funding Announcements: Includes Undergraduate Vacation Scholarships](#) Various deadlines (Crossing Biological Membranes Network) At CBMNet we foster collaborations between academia and industry to tackle research challenges in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (IBBE).

We are working to understand the mechanisms by which substances are transported into, ...

Grant Opportunities

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

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