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

### Latest Federal Legislation Posts



As you prepare to talk with your Senators and Members of Congress over the December/January recess—or as you just prepare for some animated holiday dinner conversation, scroll down for the latest legislative initiatives.

Tax is on Washington's mind, with more carbon tax discussions joining the Tax Bill conversations. Plus continuing hope for a tax extenders bill. Reactions to the tax bill from a variety of sources provide a range of perspectives and squeeze out Farm Bill coverage this month.

But really important for the future of advanced biofuels are the briefing and article from EESI about CAFE standards and how biofuels, particularly high octane/high ethanol fuels, can achieve higher mileage, smaller carbon footprints, greater performance and control air pollution.

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](http://www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org).

#### [Can Lawmakers Find a Middle Way on Fuel Efficiency? House Lawmakers Debate Harmonizing EPA, NHTSA Standards](#)

December 15, 2017 – by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) On December 12, the House Energy & Commerce Committee held a hearing, "Update on the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Program (CAFE) and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Motor ...

#### [ACE Sends Letter Urging Extension of Cellulosic Biofuel, Biodiesel Tax Credits](#)

December 16, 2017 – (American Coalition for Ethanol/KTIC) The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) CEO Brian Jennings sent a letter today (December 15, 2017) to Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means Kevin Brady and Chairman of the Committee ...

#### [White House Pressures Big Corn to Meet on U.S. Biofuels Policy](#)

December 11, 2017 – by Richard Valdmanis and Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) President Donald Trump's administration called two lawmakers from the U.S. corn belt to convince them to join talks about potential changes to biofuels policy to ease the burden on oil refineries, ...

#### [The Washington Swamp Is Filled with Ethanol](#)

December 8, 2017 – by Peter Z. Grossman (Washington Examiner) ... People forget how we wound up with an ethanol mandate worth over \$20 billion per year (and that doesn't include various subsidies). EISA was passed because Americans besieged members of Congress, ...

#### [Trump Open to Biofuel Policy Reform, Senators Say after Meeting](#)

December 8, 2017 – by Susan Cornwell (Reuters) U.S. President Donald Trump is open to reforming the country's biofuels policy if it can be done in a way that protects jobs in both the refining and agriculture industries, senators said on ...

#### [Renewable Fuel Standards Have Some 'Leaks' We Need to Fill](#)

December 5, 2017 – by Andrew F. Quinlan (Center for Freedom and Prosperity/The Hill) ... A refiner must earn RIN credits to meet its annual obligation by selling enough gallons of biofuel or by purchasing them — the credits, not the ...

#### [Tax Reform Losers from Biofuels to Coal to Get Second Chance](#)

December 5, 2017 – by Ari Natter (Bloomberg) Billions in breaks for energy sought in 'tax extenders' bill; Lobbyists are seeking new credits for coal, nuclear plants — Energy lobbyists, who failed to get a range of expired breaks for biofuels to ...

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#### [Commentary: From Grain Bin to Fuel Tank](#)

December 5, 2017 – by Gary Truitt (Hoosier Ag Today) ... Another aspect of U.S. agricultural exports that is changing is ethanol and its byproduct DDGs. In the past 3 years, U.S. exports of ethanol have grown significantly. Cary Sifferath, ...

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#### [Trump Plans to Meet Oil Industry Reps on U.S. Biofuel Policy: Sources](#)

December 1, 2017 – by Jarrett Renshaw, Richard Valdmans (Reuters) U.S. President Donald Trump has agreed to meet with representatives of the oil refining industry and their legislative backers to discuss the nation's biofuels program, according to two sources briefed on ...

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#### [Ron Paul: Why Trump Must Tackle the Renewable Fuel Standard](#)

November 30, 2017 – by Ron Paul (Campaign for Liberty/Fox News) ... While I am sure many Republicans would love to see the RFS repealed entirely – myself included – some have proposed a simple compromise that would seemingly benefit ...

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#### [Four Big Problems with a Carbon Tax](#)

November 29, 2017 – by Amy Harder (Axios) ... That's how I see things with a carbon tax, despite many economists insisting it's the best, simplest way to combat climate change. There's four big problems, as I explained at the Brookings Institution Tuesday: Most Republicans ...

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#### [NBB Members Head to the Hill to Urge Reinstatement of the Biodiesel Tax Incentive](#)

November 28, 2017 – (National Biodiesel Board) Starting today, nearly 100 members of the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) are in Washington, D.C., to participate in their biannual fly-in to the Nation's Capital. NBB members plan to storm the Hill to ...

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#### [Senate Bill Would Cut EPA Funding by \\$150M](#)

November 21, 2017 – by Devin Henry (The Hill) The Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday introduced an Interior Department and environment spending bill that would cut nearly \$150 million in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) next year.

The legislation ...

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#### [Congress and Tax Legislation: It Is Not Just about Biofuels.](#)

November 21, 2017 – by Brent Erickson (Biotechnology Innovation Organization) ... BIO has led the effort to prompt Congress to recognize the important and emerging biobased sector. Congress' current effort to reform taxes can revitalize U.S. manufacturing and grow the ...

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## Latest on Federal Regulation



Renewable volume obligations numbers have been announced--on time! And EPA decided not to change the point of obligation. But that didn't stop controversies, with White House meetings to continue discussions of all of the above.

Efforts continue to help legislators (and the rest of us) better understand the value of octane in achieving low carbon emissions and high mileage goals with EESI briefings and hearing on Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards and proposed legislation.

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.

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#### [Can Fuel Efficiency Standards Be Met Cost-Effectively? The Potential for High-Octane, Low-Carbon Fuels](#)

December 15, 2017 – (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) To cut petroleum usage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fuel efficiency standards are set to rise significantly by 2025 under the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and greenhouse gas (GHG) standards—jointly ...

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#### [Letter: Fuel Choice: A Right of All Auto Owners](#)

December 15, 2017 –by Orrie Swazye (Argus Leader) This is America: Contrary to EPA statements, all auto owners have the self-evident, unalienable constitutional right to save typically several dollars/tank by choosing splash blended 94 octane thus premium half E85/ ...

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#### [EPA Seeks Comment On ICR On RFS Program COMMENTS DUE February 6, 2018](#)

December 14, 2017 – (Biobased and Renewable Products Update) On December 8, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice in the Federal Register regarding its plans to submit an information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget ...

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#### [U.S. Midwest Lawmakers Will Consider Biofuel Changes to Help Refiners](#)

December 14, 2017 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) U.S. lawmakers from states that produce corn for ethanol plants said on Wednesday they would consider proposals from Senator Ted Cruz of Texas to help the oil refining industry cope with the nation's ...

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#### [EPA Sets 2018 Cellulosic Waiver Credit Price at \\$1.96](#)

December 13, 2017 – by Erin Voegelé (Biomass Magazine) The U.S. EPA has published a notice on its website setting the cellulosic waiver credit (CWC) price for 2018 at \$1.96. The price is slightly lower than the CWC price for 2017, ...

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### [The 12: The Advanced Bioeconomy's 12 Biggest Talking, Fretting, Praying and Action Points Right Now](#)

December 13, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... What are the top trends? Here are the 11 we see dominating the debate on the stage and on the floor.

Jet fuel deployment – how much, how soon, by whom? ...

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### [Attacks on RFS Intensify](#)

December 12, 2017 – by Mark Dorenkamp (Brownfield Ag News) Oil interests are intensifying efforts to force changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). ... "Texas is already blending more than 9.7 percent! Nationally, we're blending more than 10 percent. There's ...

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### [Agri-Pulse Open Mic Interview—U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue](#)

December 11, 2017 – (Agri-Pulse) This week's guest on Open Mic is U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. While countless farm groups and members of the agriculture industry have expressed concern with the Trump Administration's threats to pull out of ...

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### [Barrasso Calls on EPA to Study the Renewable Fuel Standard's Impact on the Environment](#)

December 8, 2017 – (U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works) Today, U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt ...

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### [Take a Glance! Lessons from the RFS](#)

December 7, 2017 – by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) The American Enterprise Institute is out with a report looking at policymaking lessons from the RFS. It argues the biofuels mandate would be better as a rate standard than a ...

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### [Mail Call! Don't Turn the Car \(Standards\) Around](#)

December 6, 2017 – by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) At least 22 Democratic senators, led by Ed Markey, Sheldon Whitehouse and Kamala Harris, are sending Pruitt a letter this morning urging him not to weaken emissions standards ...

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### [Letter to the Editor: Ethanol Important to Consumers](#)

December 5, 2017 – by Bob Dinneen (Renewable Fuels Association/Tulsa World) The staggering number of misstatements about ethanol contained in Tulsa World Editorial Pages Editor Wayne Greene's column would fill a barrel ("Refiners over a barrel ... and the ...

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### [EPA to Issue Report on RFS Impacts Next Spring](#)

December 5, 2017 – by Marc Heller (E&E Publishing/Greenwire) U.S. EPA will report on the environmental effects of biofuel mandates next spring, four years later than required by Congress, the agency said in documents accompanying its announcement of renewable fuel ...

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### [Pruitt Takes a Bow in Iowa: EPA Chief Touts Optimism, RFS Rules and Different Regulatory Philosophy Under Trump](#)

December 5, 2017 – by Chris Clayton (DTN The Progressive Farmer) ... In a large farm shop with ethanol and biodiesel posters adorning the walls, Pruitt touted his two biofuels announcements in recent weeks. He noted EPA had struggled under ...

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### [RFA Slams Texas Governor for Requesting RFS Waiver](#)

December 5, 2017 – by Meghan Sapp (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, in a letter to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Friday, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) asked the agency to waive Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) for ...

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### [Lo-Carb at Ay Speed: The Digest's 2017 Multi-Slide Guide to California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard](#)

December 5, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) There are two approaches to encouraging low-carbon fuels — volumetric mandates and carbon reduction incentives. What is different about a Low Carbon Fuel Standard — as compared to a Renewable Fuel Standard?

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### [Take a Pass?](#)

December 4, 2017 – by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) Ahead of a Thursday meeting between Trump, Sen. Ted Cruz and other senior officials about biofuels policy, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott formally asked for a Renewable Fuel Standard waiver from ...

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### [Pruitt Reverses Course on Biofuels in 2018 RFS Determination](#)

December 1, 2017 – by Jessie Stolarik (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) On November 30, the EPA released its final 2018 Renewable Volume Obligation (RVOs) proposal, the amount of biofuels it will require to be blended into the U.S. fuel ...

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### [Fuel Economy Is Going up. Vehicle Prices Are Holding Steady.](#)

November 30, 2017 – by Eric Junga (American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy) In responding to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action on vehicle standards, ACEEE found that average vehicle prices have remained essentially flat over the past 15 years, even as average ...

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### [As 2018 Renewable Fuel Numbers Disappoint, It's 'Advanced Biofuels Industry to EPA: More Please, Sir!'](#)

November 30, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, the Environmental Protection Agency released its final Renewable Fuel Standard renewable volume obligations for 2018. The agency finalized a total renewable fuel volume of 19.29 billion gallons, of ...

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### [2018 RVOs Keep Conventional Biofuels on Track](#)

November 30, 2017 – (Growth Energy) Growth Energy CEO Emily Skor today released the following statement regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) release of the final renewable volume obligations (RVOs) for 2018. The total renewable fuel volume is 19.29 billion ...

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### [Biodiesel Industry Disappointed by Renewable Fuel Standard Volumes](#)

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November 30, 2017 – (National Biodiesel Board) NBB: EPA Missed an Opportunity to Grow American-Made Energy and Jobs — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the required volume obligations (RVOs) under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and failed ...

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#### [EPA Finalizes RFS Volumes for 2018 and Biomass Based Diesel Volumes for 2019](#)

November 30, 2017 – (Environmental Protection Agency) Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule that establishes the required renewable fuel volumes under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) program for 2018, and biomass-based diesel for 2019.

"Maintaining the renewable ...

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#### [NBB Members Head to the Hill to Urge Reinstatement of the Biodiesel Tax Incentive](#)

November 28, 2017 – (National Biodiesel Board) Starting today, nearly 100 members of the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) are in Washington, D.C., to participate in their biannual fly-in to the Nation's Capital. NBB members plan to storm the Hill to ...

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#### [Drivers May Bear the Brunt of U.S. Biofuel Quotas](#)

November 28, 2017 – by Laura Blewitt (Bloomberg) With higher blend credit prices come stronger gasoline margins; Refiners likely to pass higher costs at the pump: Wells Fargo — ... Despite the petroleum lobby's efforts, the Environmental Protection Agency last week rejected a petition ...

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#### [Is E25 Legal in the Mini Cooper?](#)

November 27, 2017 – by Dave VanderGriend (Ethanol Producer Magazine/ICM/Urban Air Initiative) ... In an over-simplified explanation, the EPA has claimed the legal authority to regulate ethanol blends under section 211(f) of the Clean Air Act, known as the "sub-sim" ...

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#### [Biofuels Score Victory: EPA Rejects Petitions to Change Point of Obligation in RFS](#)

November 27, 2017 – by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rejected several petitions to change the point of obligation in the Renewable Fuel Standard in a notice released on Wednesday ahead of a posting ...

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#### [Charting a Cellulosic Path — Enzyme Advances Hold Promise in Corn Ethanol](#)

November 22, 2017 – by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Cellulosic technology companies have invested time and millions of dollars to explore ways to convert biomass into cellulosic ethanol for the better part of 20 years.

Most technologies have fallen ...

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#### [Does Regulating Indirect Land Use Change Work? The Digest's 2017 Multi-Slide Guide to ILUC Reform](#)

November 20, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana professor Madhu Khanna has been raising issues with including an indirect land use change factor for compliance with low carbon fuel standards.

Why, since ILUC is a required ...

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## Latest in Federal Litigation



International trade disputes take center stage, decisions on unfair trade practices regarding biodiesel at the top of the list. Official corporate lying admitted by VW employee. And important patent case at the Supreme Court.

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

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

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#### [International Trade Commission Votes 4-0 In Support of the Biodiesel Industry](#)

December 5, 2017 – (National Biodiesel Board) NBB Fair Trade Coalition Filed Cases on Harm from Biodiesel Imports from Argentina and Indonesia — Today the International Trade Commission (ITC) voted 4-0 in favor of the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) Fair Trade ...

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#### [VW Bosses Coached Me to Lie. Jailed Manager Tells U.S. Judge](#)

December 4, 2017 – by Christie Smythe (Bloomberg Technology) (Oliver) Schmidt to be sentenced on Dec. 6 over emissions scandal; 'Regrettably, I agreed to follow it'; faces 7 years in prison — ...

In a letter to the judge last week, ...

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#### [SCOTUS Watch: Can Tribunals Replace Juries in Nixing Patents?](#)

November 30, 2017 – by Lisa V. Mueller (Michael, Best & Friedrich/Biofuels Digest) On November 27, 2017, the Supreme Court of the United States will hear arguments in Oil States Energy Services LLC. v. Greene's Energy Group. It's no "ho-hum" case.

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If ...

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