


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

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Poppies, a symbol of May's Memorial Day.

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



Enabling sales of E15 throughout the year around the country grabbed headlines in multiple ways this month including as a negotiating chit in the US Senate "Methane Rule" vote.

Tax season continues with on-going discussions of biodiesel tax credits, blenders' tax credit, carbon tax, gas tax.

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.

[Next Steps for Ethanol Waiver](#)

May 12, 2017 –

by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) Bipartisan legislation from Sen. Deb Fischer that would allow year-round sale of gasoline blends with 15 percent ethanol will get a Senate EPW markup and hearing, your host and ...

[Senate Unexpectedly Rejects Bid to Repeal a Key Obama-Era Environmental Regulation](#)

May 10, 2017 –

by Chelsea Harvey and Juliet Eilperin (The Washington Post) The U.S. Senate narrowly voted down a resolution on Wednesday to repeal an Obama-era rule restricting methane emissions from drilling on public lands — with three ...

[NATSO, Others Urge Congress to Extend, Phase Out Biodiesel Tax Credit](#)

May 9, 2017 –

(NATSO, Inc./PR Newswire) NATSO, the national association representing truckstops and travel plazas, and a coalition of trade associations representing the entire biodiesel supply chain, urged Congress to extend the biodiesel blenders' tax credit as it ...

[Wyden Introduces Clean Energy for America Act](#)

May 8, 2017 –

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, Senate Finance Committee Ranking Democrat Ron Wyden (Ore.) and

colleagues introduced a clean energy tax reform package that includes a proposal for a technology neutral tax credit designed ...

[Renewable Fuels Are Part of an 'America First' Energy Plan](#)

May 4, 2017 –

by Brian Jennings (The Hill/American Coalition for Ethanol) ... By every measure, increasing the production and use of homegrown renewable fuels has spurred economic growth for U.S. farmers and supported high-skill, high-wage jobs in rural ...

[Renewable Fuel Grows, Sets Records](#)

May 3, 2017 –

by Lynn Grooms (Agri-View) Supply and demand of renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel are expected to continue their rise this year despite continued challenges and uncertainties. Executives from organizations representing renewable-fuel producers recently provided ...

[Methane Rule Repeal Hits Snag in Senate Over Ethanol](#)

May 3, 2017 –

by Jennifer A Dlouhy and Ari Natter (Bloomberg Markets) Midwest Republicans didn't get policy change in omnibus; Lawmakers now withholding support for methane rule repeal — A top oil industry priority on Capitol Hill may fall ...

[Trump Says He'd Consider Increasing the Gas Tax](#)

May 2, 2017 –

by Damian Paletta (The Washington Post) President Trump on Monday said he was open to raising the federal tax on gasoline and using the new revenue for his infrastructure package, a potentially major policy change as ...

[Laying a Road Map for States, Liberal Senators Introduce Bill to End U.S. Fossil Fuel Use by 2050](#)

April 28, 2017 –

by Juliet Eilperin (The Washington Post) Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) introduced legislation Thursday that calls on the U.S. to transition off fossil fuels by 2050, hoping to ...

[Trump Forms Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#)

April 28, 2017 –

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, the Trump Administration released its "Presidential Executive Order on Promoting Agriculture and Rural Prosperity in America" — and a report from the Interagency Task Force, something

this order ...

[Group Promotes Carbon Fee to Encourage Use of Renewable Energy Sources in Manufacturing](#)

April 26, 2017 –

by Christopher Stephens (CNHI News Indiana/Tribune Star) ... The Citizens' Climate Lobby is advocating for a fee to be charged against carbon at the point it enters the U.S. economy. The group's single mission is ...

[ACI: Bill Would Permanently End Biofuel Subsidies That Distort Soap Industry Marketplace](#)

April 26, 2017 –

(American Cleaning Institute) ACI praises Rep. Randy Weber's "Stop Animal Fat Tax Credits Act," Urges Its Inclusion in Tax Reform Package — Legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX) would permanently put a stop ...

[One Step Forward](#)

April 26, 2017 –

by Michael McAdams (Advanced Biofuels Association/Biomass Magazine) ... I can tell you firsthand that for the first time in four years, both House and Senate staff are pushing all stakeholders to come to the table to ...

[National Biodiesel Board Applauds New Biodiesel Tax Credit Bill](#)

April 26, 2017 –

(National Biodiesel Board) Grassley-Cantwell bill would modify the biodiesel tax credit to a production credit — Today the National Biodiesel Board applauded the introduction of a bipartisan biodiesel tax credit bill that would convert the ...

Latest on Federal Regulation



The proper place for obligated parties under the Renewable Fuel Standard remains in the news with details about the personal financial benefit the kerfuffle gave to Carl Icahn.

Donald Trump said many nice things about ethanol and biofuels during the campaign and new Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue continues to praise renewable transportation fuels. What does that mean as time goes on? We'll get some answers when the renewable fuel volume obligation numbers emerge from the Office of Management and Budget.

It's boating season, too, and E0, E10 and E15 fuel concerns rise again; and are met with soothing facts.

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.

[RFS Proposal Sent to White House](#)

May 12, 2017 –

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The 2018 proposed renewable volume obligations in the Renewable Fuel Standard were sent to the Office of Management and Budget at the White House late Thursday, according to ...

[LCFS vs RFS: As Two Contend for the Renewables Heavyweight Championship, Who Is the Greatest? Carbon 2017 Part 2 of 3](#)

May 11, 2017 –

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) What is different about a Low Carbon Fuel Standard — as compared to a Renewable Fuel Standard?

There are 4 primary differences.

1. An RFS creates a standard, and any fuel that ...

[Icahn's Pig in a Poke](#)

May 11, 2017 –

by Brent Erickson (Biotechnology Innovation Organization/Biofuels Digest) Members of the U.S. Senate are questioning whether Carl Icahn's lobbying to change the Renewable Fuel Standard creates an ethics conflict with his role as advisor in the ...

[\\$20 Oil? \\$200 Oil? Does It Matter? Part 1 of the 3-Part Digest series: Carbon 2017](#)

May 10, 2017 –

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) For the world of renewable fuels — the only significant carbon legislation on the books, it really doesn't matter what the oil price is. The RFS creates a separate market for ...

[NBB Asks for Higher Biodiesel RVO](#)

May 9, 2017 –

by Mark Dorenkamp (Brownfield Ag News) The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) is working with the Trump Administration to increase the renewable volume obligations (RVO) for biodiesel.

NBB vice president of federal affairs Anne Steckel says the ...

[RFA Fires Back at Boat Makers over E15 Claims](#)

May 9, 2017 –

by Jason Huffman (Politico's Morning Agriculture) The Renewable Fuels Association has kicked off an advertising campaign intended to combat lobbying efforts by the National Marine Manufacturers Association against mandated blending rates. NMMA is expected to ...

[Business and Consumers Will Both Lose if Renewable Fuel Standard Is Changed](#)

May 8, 2017 –

by Max McBrayer (The Hill/RaceTrac Petroleum) ... My perspective comes from over 30 years in the fuels business. Currently, I am chief supply officer of RaceTrac Petroleum, a fuel retailer and operator of more than ...

[Ethanol Report on Trade Issues and Trump Administration](#)

May 8, 2017 –

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) ... In this episode, we get a Washington update from Renewable Fuels Association president and CEO Bob Dinneen, focusing on recent trade developments and the Trump Administration. Dinneen comments on President ...

[Perdue Pushes RFS, Beef Exports in Iowa Speech](#)

May 8, 2017 –

by Spencer Chase and Ben Nuelle (Agri-Pulse) ... Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue highlighted the benefits of renewable energy and the need for export markets in a Friday speech to Iowa producers.

The speech was billed as Perdue's ...

[Boating Leaders Ask Trump to Change Ethanol Policy](#)

May 4, 2017 –

by Todd Masson (NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune) Boating and fishing industry leaders sent a letter to President Donald Trump Wednesday asking the administration to reexamine the Renewable Fuel Standard that dictates how much of the ...

[Is Ethanol Worth the Fight?](#)

May 1, 2017 –

by Tim Snyder (Equities.com/Crudefundrs) ... With that in mind, we decided to break down the question of, "Is it worth it?" into four parts: price benefits, reduction of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), oxygenate replacement and green fuel alternatives. ...

[Remove the Ethanol Albatross from around the Necks of U.S. Consumers: Robert W. Chase \(Opinion\)](#)

May 1, 2017 –

by Rob W. Chase (Cleveland.com) ... Less than 5 percent of all service stations in the United States offer ethanol-free gasoline. Almost all the gasoline sold nationally is E10 (10 percent ethanol, 90 percent gasoline). And some of the ...

[ACE Urges Ethanol Advocates to Participate in EPA Regulatory Reform Comment Period](#)

May 1, 2017 –

(American Coalition for Ethanol) The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) submitted a public comment focused on its ethanol priorities soon after EPA formally began seeking input on existing regulations to be reviewed by its newly ...

[Icahn's Oil Refiner Reports Plunge in Biofuels Bill in First Quarter](#)

April 28, 2017 –

by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters) Biofuels compliance expenses for CVR Energy's refining unit fell to the lowest level in almost five years during the first quarter, the company said on Thursday, as the ...

[Consumers and Farmers Burned by EPA Regulations on Renewable Fuel](#)

April 27, 2017 –

by Bob Dinneen (The Hill) As the days grow longer and the mercury rises, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should take action to eliminate an irrational summertime regulation that hurts both farmers and millions of Americans ...

[Uncovering The Gas Roots of Contemporary Ethanol Opposition](#)

April 26, 2017 –

by Marc J. Rauch (The Auto Channel) ... Faced with some actual governmental actions that were detrimental to gasoline/diesel dominance, instead of the virtual carte blanche pro-petroleum fuel policies that they usually receive from the government, ...

[Increasing Number of Americans Are Willing to Drive Farther, Pay More for Ethanol-Free Fuel](#)

April 26, 2017 –

by Ben Wolfgang (The Washington Times) Ethanol's rise over the past decade has given birth to an under-the-radar market: Americans who are willing to travel miles out of their way and pay significantly more per ...

[Letter: Diversify Michigan Energy](#)

April 25, 2017 –

by Bruce Dale (Detroit News) Regarding “Renewable Fuel Standard has failed, April 16,” Prof. Wolfram has failed to do his homework.

The corn grown to make ethanol is not the same as sweet corn we eat. ...

[Letter: Renewable Fuel Standard Vital to Indiana](#)

April 25, 2017 –

by Ralph Kauffmann (Kokomo Tribune) ... So many of these factors can take a big chunk out of my bottom line, and at the same time, so many of these factors are completely out of my ...

[Biofuels Supporters, Opponents Spar During EPA Teleconference](#)

April 25, 2017 –

by Michael Schneider (Oil Price Information Service) Supporters and opponents of biofuels expressed predictably contrasting viewpoints during a teleconference held today by EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR).

The call was held to solicit input on ...

[Opportunities to Transition Ethanol Facilities to Biochemical Refineries](#)

April 24, 2017 –

by Daniel A. Lane and Joel A. Stone (Lee Enterprises Consulting/Biofuels Digest) ... As the market for gasoline grew, a shortage soon developed for the lighter fractions of crude oil. This shortage led to the development of ...

[Intersecting Trends of Oil and Ethanol](#)

April 24, 2017 –

by Patrick C. Miller (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Is the growth in shale oil production a potential boost for ethanol? The theory goes that because the light crude produced from fracked shale produces lower-octane gasoline, greater oil ...

[Ethanol Consumption Shatters Blend Wall in 2016](#)

April 24, 2017 –

by Ben Neulle (Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network) Gasoline consumed in the United States in 2016 contained more than 10 percent ethanol on average for the first time ever. This is according to an analysis of U.S. ...

[Capitol Crude: The US Oil Policy Podcast—Oil Refiners and Renewable Fuels in the Trump Era](#)

April 24, 2017 –

by Brian Scheid and Meghan Gordon (Platts) Have refiners' hopes for a quick rollback of the US biofuel mandate by the Trump administration fizzled out? The industry judged two early appointments as signs of the president's ...

[RFA Tells EPA to Keep RFS on Track](#)

April 24, 2017 –

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) sent a letter today to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt urging him to keep the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) on track in 2018.

"The ethanol industry was highly ...

Latest in Federal Litigation



Federal litigation news sometimes overlaps with Federal regulation or legislation items, so check both sections. For example, this month E15 and the one pound Reid vapor pressure waiver that impedes year-round sales of the blend appear in all sections. And the renewable fuels volume numbers show up in court as well as at the executive branch.

This month, the latest status on existing criminal fraud cases and continuation of the not-exactly-litigation fair trade complaints.

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

[US Advances Biodiesel Dumping Case against Imports from Argentina, Indonesia](#)

May 8, 2017 –

by Meghan Gordon (Platts) The US International Trade Commission voted Friday to allow US biodiesel producers' petition against Argentina and Indonesia to go forward.

The National Biodiesel Board filed the petition in March, seeking antidumping and countervailing ...

[Owners of Biofuel Company Indicted on Conspiracy and False Statement Charges](#)

May 4, 2017 –

(U.S. Department of Justice) A Pennsylvania biofuel producer and two of its officers have been indicted on conspiracy and false statements charges for participating in a scheme that generated over \$10 million in U.S. Environmental ...

[Biofuels Promoter Faces Federal Fraud Charges](#)

May 2, 2017 –

by Mikkel Pates (Agweek) An Iowa biofuels promoter who came to North Dakota in 2012 and sought investments in factories, including a proposed beets-to-ethanol plant Grafton, N.D., has been accused of violating federal wire fraud, ...

[Argentina to Try to Revive Exports of Biodiesel and Lemons at the Bilateral Meeting between Macri and Trump](#)

April 26, 2017 –

(telam.com) The meeting between the presidents will be an opportunity for the country to try to recover the market for agroindustrial exports that are paralyzed. Bilateral trade in 2016 reached US \$ 10,472 million, with a ...

[Judges Give EPA the Side Eye on Waiver Authority](#)

April 25, 2017 –

by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) EPA got caught in a cross-fire of skepticism at the D.C. Circuit Monday over its use of general waiver authority to lower RFS volumes for 2016, Pro's Eric Wolff reports ...

[NBB Argues for Higher Advanced-Biofuel Volumes Before the D.C. Court of Appeals](#)

April 24, 2017 –

(National Biodiesel Board) Americans for Clean Energy, et al., v. Environmental Protection Agency — Today the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit regarding the ...

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](#)

Educational News and Resources

Our Educational News and Resources newsletter premiered last month. It includes the types of articles and information previously posted in this space. [To subscribe to this new educational newsletter, click here.](#) Watch for it the first week of each month.

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://reashwestweb.com> Email : jay@reashwestweb.com Skype : jay.pipavat88

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