

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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2018 US Senate and House Elections

Some will be making biofuels an issue during this year's US Senate and House of Representatives elections. We'll follow developments [here](#) and on our [website](#) with category, [2018 Election Activities](#) and tag, [2018 US Senate and House Campaigns](#).

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

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



Cute names for bills FUTURE and GREENER. They sound so optimistic. Although Algae Nation hales the FUTURE for expanding tax credits to algae cultivation as carbon capture and use; Fossil Nation also praises its incentives for renewed investment in coal and continued support of fracking.

GREENER is anything but for advanced biofuels as the [Environmental and Energy Study Institute](#) so ably explains.

The Renewable Fuel Standard reform or revisions and tax incentives remain on the table along with Farm Bill discussions.

And, isn't it great when your appropriations get cut because you are doing such a good job? Ask DOE's EERE.

The Philadelphia, PA refinery that claims its bankruptcy stems not from mismanagement and corporate raiding, but from having to pay for RINs remains on center stage, with EPA writing off some of its RIN debt. These articles overlap with legislative and regulation pieces. Look for some articles in each section.

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 the website, www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org.

[New Federal Budget Puts Price on Carbon](#)

March 19, 2018 – by Joshua D. Rhodes (University of Texas at Austin Energy Institute) Expanded Carbon Credit Could Spur New Coal Power

Investment — The Furthering carbon capture, Utilization, Technology, Underground storage, and Reduced Emissions (FUTURE) Act, part of the recently ...

[RFS Roundup: Potential Impacts of the GREENER Fuels Act on Cellulosic Fuels](#)

[Development](#)

March 18, 2018 – by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) Riding the recent wave of Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) reform talks, Representative Welch (D-VT) and Senator Udall (D-NM) introduced the Growing Renewable Energy through Existing and New Environmentally Responsible ...

[DOE Official: Clean Energy Funding Should Be Cut for ‘Exceeding Goals’](#)

March 18, 2018 – by Lacey Johnson (Greentech Media) The Under Secretary of Energy defends a Trump administration proposal to cut \$1.3 billion in funding from the DOE’s renewable energy office. — The Energy Department’s Office of Energy Efficiency and ...

[Advanced Biofuels Interest in Post Tax Bill Hearing](#)

March 15, 2018 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) and more than 50 member organizations are urging Congressional leaders to extend the biodiesel tax credit as soon as possible for at least 2018.

In a letter to House and Senate ...

[So-Called ‘Dem’ Ethanol Bill Has It All Wrong](#)

March 15, 2018 – by Doug Sombke (The Hill/South Dakota Farmers Union) As a card carrying Democrat, I resent the broad brush generalization of the Hill’s March 8 headline, “Dem Bill Would Overhaul Ethanol Mandate.”

To imply to readers that the ...

[Biodiesel and 2nd Gen Biofuels Need Stable Tax Policy](#)

March 15, 2018 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AdWired.com) The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tax Policy heard from representatives of the biodiesel and advanced biofuels industries Wednesday on the need for “Post Tax Reform of Recently Expired Tax Provisions” that are ...

[The Pentagon Is Quietly Moving forward on Biofuel Deals. Republicans Want to Stop It](#)

March 13, 2018 – by Travis J. Tritten (Washington Examiner) ... (Former Navy Secretary Ray) Mabus’ vision is, however, quietly moving forward under the Trump administration. The Pentagon has authorized \$140 million to help build two biofuel refineries in ...

[Ahead of Hearing, Dozens of Biodiesel Stakeholders Urge Passage of Tax Extenders](#)

March 13, 2018 – (National Biodiesel Board) Biodiesel Tax Credit Requires Reinstatement, Will Be Discussed Tomorrow in Ways and Means Committee — Today the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) and more than 50 of its member organizations sent a letter to Congressional ...

[Long Road for Biofuels Industry](#)

March 9, 2018 – by Michael McAdams (Biomass Magazine) This year is setting up to be a long year for the biofuels industry. First on the agenda is the fate of the biofuels tax extenders, including the biodiesel blenders, renewable diesel ...

[Tax Act May Spur More Investment in RNG, Biogas Projects](#)

March 9, 2018 –by Doug Lamb and Durham McCormick (Biomass Magazine/Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas) ... While the tax code is clearly

not responsible for a bulk of the current boom in RNG, the recent tax reform signed into law ...

[Bill Aims to Dismantle RFS, Limit Biofuel Blending](#)

March 9, 2018 – by Erin Voegelé (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On March 8, Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., and Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., introduced companion bills that aim to dismantle the Renewable Fuel Standard and sunset blending obligations for conventional, advanced, ...

[200 Companies, Trade Groups Urge Congress forward on Farm Bill Energy Title Programs](#)

March 9, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, more than 200 companies and trade associations today wrote House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders, urging them “to reauthorize and maintain stable mandatory funding for energy title programs in the ...

[Hearing Watch](#)

March 2, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico’s Morning Energy) Rep. John Shimkus’ E&C energy subcommittee will hold a “future of transportation fuels” hearing next week. “Because of the evolving nature of the Renewable Fuel Standard, the Corporate Average Fuel Economy ...

[ABO Scores Historic Victory for Carbon Utilization](#)

February 27, 2018 – (Algae Biomass Organization) In a historic victory for algae and other microbial technologies, Congress late last night approved a two-year budget agreement that establishes a \$35 per ton tax incentive for carbon captured and recycled from ...

[Carbon Capture Coalition Expands & Rebrands](#)

February 27, 2018 – by Amy Harder (Axios) ... The effort, called the Carbon Capture Coalition, is a rebranded and broadened version of an earlier group, called

the National Enhanced Oil Recovery Initiative, which had a narrower focus. That coalition ...

[The Biobased Economy Is Reaching a Tipping Point](#)

February 27, 2018 – by Brent Erickson (Biotechnology Innovation Organization/Biofuels Digest) ... BIO is the only trade association that advocates for the diverse policies that support the entire biobased economy – the full value chain of technologies and infrastructure ...

[Can Updated Tax Credits Bring Carbon Capture Into the Mainstream?](#)

February 26, 2018 – by Emma Foehringer Merchant (GreenTechMedia) Expanded credits in the budget bill could “absolutely make the difference” for the economic viability of carbon capture and sequestration. — Among the energy credits tucked inside the budget deal eked out in early February lies a ...

[Former Trump Energy Adviser Sees No Easy Fix on Renewable Fuel Standard Reform](#)

February 22, 2018 – by Meghan Gordon and Brian Scheid (Platts) Reforming the US biofuel mandate will be tricky and will likely have to be done by Congress, not by the Trump administration, according to a recent top energy adviser ...

Latest on Federal Regulation



White House meetings about the Renewable Fuel Standards and RINs prices continued and stalled. RIN caps and E15 pumps come to the negotiating table. Oil executives enjoy private time with President Trump.

A coalition of electric car-supporting environmentalists and Ted Cruz supporters

find agreement in seeking to keep the status quo of 90% petroleum in liquid transportation fuel. More stories come out about the harmful environmental impact of lithium and rare earth metals needed for batteries.

The CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) mid-point correction time has arrived with the Trump Administration exploring withdrawing the waiver that allows California to set emissions standards. DOE publishes a report confirming that high ethanol/high octane blends are the best, least expensive way to get more mileage with a smaller, defossilized, carbon footprint. Here's our [policy statement](#) on that.

Senators Chuck Grassley and Amy Kolbuchar bring a sense of humor to the aggravatingly serious proceedings.

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

[Corn-State Senators Seek Trump Meeting as U.S. Biofuel Changes Loom](#)

March 18, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) A group of senators from U.S. corn states have asked President Donald Trump for a meeting about the nation's biofuels law, amid expectations the administration will soon act to lower the regulation's ...

[The U.S. Is about to Be the World's Top Crude Oil Producer. Guess Who Didn't See It Coming.](#)

March 18, 2018 – by Charles Lane (Washington Post) ... Domestic crude production was not inherently "limited," as O'Connell told Congress in 2011, it just needed a better mouse trap. Fracking was it. Entrepreneurs broke the oil-import addiction, even though the ...

[Environmental Groups Back Ted Cruz, Republicans on Overhaul of Renewable Fuel Standard](#)

March 16, 2018 – by Ben Wolfgang (Washington Times) Green organizations back ending corn ethanol mandate — ... The intense opposition to the RFS from environmental and conservation groups comes as the White House and congressional leaders work to craft the ...

[Oklahoma Cellulosic Diesel Facility Achieves D7 Q-RIN Status](#)

March 16, 2018 – by Ron Kotrba (Biomass Magazine) D7 renewable identification numbers (RINs) generated at a biorefinery in Oklahoma City producing cellulosic diesel fuel have been verified by Weaver and granted Q-RIN status. Weaver is an independent third-party auditor ...

[The Digest's 2018 Visual Guide to the Economics, Politics of Renewable Fuels](#)

March 16, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Have you ever wondered why corn farmers march for the RFS, but Wall Streeters don't? Or why merchant oil refiners want the US Renewable Fuel Standard repealed but major oilcos generally ...

[Geothermal Could Profit from U.S. Executive Order to Support Lithium Mining](#)

March 15, 2018 – by Alexander Richter (Think GeoEnergy) An executive order by U.S. President Donald Trump to support mining activities for critical minerals, could present a boost to lithium mining activities in the U.S. and indirectly help some geothermal ...

[CON: Keep the Renewable Fuel Standard but Reboot It by Using Bio-Masses instead of Corn](#)

March 15, 2018 – by Michael E. Kraft (Tribune News Service/Bradenton Herald) ... Ideally, Congress would reboot the renewable fuel mandate in a new

way for today's economy, and design it as one component of a comprehensive response to climate change. For ...

[Harmonizing a Three-Headed Regulatory Monster \(EPA, NHTSA, CARB\)](#)

March 14, 2018 – by Graham Noyes and Doug Durante (Low Carbon Fuels Coalition/Clean Fuels Development Coalition/Biofuels Digest) ... While not as entertaining to watch as a Godzilla film with a three-headed flying monster, the current regulatory struggle over national ...

[EPA Chief Signals Showdown With California on Fuel Emission Standards](#)

March 14, 2018 – by Jennifer A. Dlouhy, Ryan Beene and John Lippert (Bloomberg Politics) Pruitt warns California isn't in driver's seat on car rules; EPA faces April 1 deadline to decide on current requirements — The Trump administration's chief environmental regulator ...

[Refiners Try to Hold Trump's Attention](#)

March 14, 2018 – (Politico's Morning Energy) With a settlement between refiner Philadelphia Energy Solutions and EPA in hand and voting in the Pennsylvania special election over, some biofuels observers think the issue may fall off Trump's radar. A biofuels ...

[ACE Talks Opportunities, Challenges for Ethanol Demand in 2018](#)

March 13, 2018 – by Tim Albrecht (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The American Coalition for Ethanol hosted a webinar Feb. 20 titled "Opportunities and Challenges to Increasing Ethanol Demand in 2018." The webinar focused on ACE initiatives designed to ensure ethanol ...

[Let's Talk Technical — Reid Vapor Pressure and E15 Choice — What Roadblocks Limit Ethanol from Expanding into the Market Place?](#)

March 13, 2018 – (Urban Air Initiative) The ethanol industry faces several

roadblocks, in particular we hear about the RVP relief, vapor pressure for blends higher than E10.

We also have the MOVES model which is the Motor Vehicle Emissions simulator ...

[Rick Santorum: Stop the Attacks on Farmers, Homegrown Energy](#)

March 13, 2018 – by Rick Santorum (Washington Examiner) This January, I authored a column defending President Trump and rural champions in Congress who had come under attack by refineries for their support of American-made biofuels. A Republican Pennsylvania state legislator, Rep. ...

[Pruitt Looks to Stamp out RIN “Hoarding,” Raises Possibility of Limits on Wall Street](#)

March 13, 2018 – by James Osborne (Houston Chronicle) EPA chief Scott Pruitt raised the idea Monday of limiting Wall Street’s ability to trade the government-issued credits for ethanol and other biofuels in an effort to aid oil refineries.

...

In a meeting ...

[GM Exec Wants To Make Premium Gas The New Regular Gas](#)

March 13, 2018 – by Jason Torchinsky (Japlopnik) ... See, he (GM Vice President of Global Propulsion systems Dan Nicholson) announced that he’d like to see all gas as high an octane as premium gas in a talk he gave to the American ...

[White House Postpones Talks on US Biofuel Mandate: Refinery Source](#)

March 13, 2018 – by Meghan Gordon (Platts) The White House has postponed a fourth round of talks between refinery and biofuel interests about reforming the US biofuel mandate, according to a refinery source close to the negotiations.

The meeting set ...

[Big This Week: Oil Execs to Huddle with Trump](#)

March 12, 2018 – by Amy Harder (Axios) Lots to discuss: Top oil-and-gas industry executives will meet Thursday with President Trump at the White House, according to sources familiar with the plan.

Why it matters: The meeting arrives amid a rough patch in ...

[Update: White House Calls off Biofuels Meeting](#)

March 12, 2018 – (Agri-Pulse) Oil, biofuels interests were originally set to meet Monday morning. [READ MORE](#)

BIOFUELS WHITE HOUSE MEETING SCRAPPED: (Politico's Morning Energy)
MONDAY WHITE HOUSE MEETING ON RFS CALLED OFF (Brownfield Ag News; includes AUDIO)
Ethanol Interests Shout Opposition ...

[Ethanol Plant Operators Say No to RIN Price Cap — Comments from Renewable Fuels Association Member Companies](#)

March 9, 2018 – (Renewable Fuels Association) Another White House meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 12, to continue discussions between oil refinery and biofuels interests over the price of Renewable Identification Numbers, or RINs, which were created under ...

[UPDATE 1-White House Sets Biofuel Meeting; Trump Will Not Attend -Sources](#)

March 9, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The White House has made preliminary plans for a meeting on Monday between rivals in the corn and oil

industries to discuss potential changes to the nation's biofuels policy, two sources familiar ...

[Analysis: Cap on Conventional Ethanol RINs Will Reduce Biodiesel Market By 100-300 Million Gallons Per Year](#)

March 9, 2018 – (National Biodiesel Board) A new analysis by the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) and the World Agricultural Economic and Environmental Services (WAEES) found that capping the price of conventional biofuels' Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) will significantly harm ...

[New Study: RIN Price Cap for E15 RVP Waiver "Deal" Would Cut Ethanol Consumption and Trough Corn Prices](#)

March 8, 2018 – by Emily Druckman (Renewable Fuels Association) Any action to artificially cap Renewable Identification Number (RIN) prices in exchange for an RVP waiver allowing year-round sale of E15 would be a bad deal for rural America and ...

[Letter: Don't Be Misinformed about Renewable Fuel Standard by 'Big Oil'](#)

March 7, 2018 – by Anngie Steinbarger (The Republic) I was dismayed to read the Feb. 16 letter from Mark Brown and Travis DeFries, managers at Valero, who want U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., to help oil companies gut the market ...

[UPDATE 1-U.S. Refinery Workers Head to Washington to Urge Biofuels Reform](#)

March 7, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) A delegation of workers from U.S. oil refining companies that oppose the nation's biofuels policy will converge on Washington on Wednesday to lobby lawmakers to find a way to lessen the regulation's ...

[EPA Unresponsive to Letter on Agency Position on RIN Prices](#)

March 6, 2018 – (Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)/Ethanol Producer

Magazine) U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, today (March 1, 2018) issued the following statement on EPA's official position, restated as recently as November 2017 that, "high RIN prices do ...

[New Study: Nearly 50,000 Iowa Jobs Tied to Biofuels](#)

March 6, 2018 – by Rod Swoboda (Wallaces Farmer) With a White House meeting being held last week to discuss the fate of the Renewable Fuel Standard, a new study finds nearly 50,000 Iowa jobs are tied to biofuels production.

Efforts ...

[Impressions of the State of the Industry from ABLC 2018](#)

March 6, 2018 – by Joanne Ivancic* (Advanced Biofuels USA) "A smidgen more hopeful that it has been for a few years," said one advanced biofuels industry long-timer. "I don't understand why it feels so pessimistic," asked an attendee ...

["That's Chuck Grassley. Should I Take the Call?" Klobuchar Keynote Ignites ABLC](#)

March 5, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, an unplanned on-stage telephone conversation between Senators Amy Klobuchar and Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa was the highlight of ABLC 2018 as high drama at the White House ...

[Heard On The Floor at ABLC Day 2 – Listen to the Wind of Change](#)

March 5, 2018 – by Helena Tavares Kennedy (Biofuels Digest) ... Starting with the Federal Perspective and Programs Forum first thing in the morning, we heard from Harry Baumes from USDA who announced 5 more projects projecting to achieve financial closing in ...

[Parts and Control Makers Team up on Vehicle Standards](#)

March 2, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico’s Morning Energy) Groups representing auto parts makers and pollution control manufacturers will team up today for a new “informal alliance” to push for EPA and the Transportation Department to decide sooner rather than ...

[Heard on the Floor at ABLC 2018](#)

March 1, 2018 –by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) There was high drama in Washington, DC as the Advanced Bioeconomy Leadership Conference got underway and President Trump readies to meet at the White House with a number of biofuels leaders about ...

[ABLC 2018 Preview: Deployment Dawns, Products Proliferate, and Techs Land Major Venture Deals as the Bioeconomy Advances into a Big 2018](#)

February 28, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, ABLC 2018 opens amidst a flutter of government rollbacks of deployment support but the hope of regulatory relief, breakthroughs in financial structuring, a decisive shift in early-stage projects to ...

[White House Pushes for More Talks after ‘No Deal’ on Biofuels](#)

February 27, 2018 –by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) U.S. President Donald Trump has asked for more talks between representatives of the oil and corn industries after a meeting on Tuesday failed to yield an agreement on how to help ...

[Farm Groups Urge Trump to Maintain the Integrity of the RFS](#)

February 27, 2018 – by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Representatives of the U.S. farming community are speaking out ahead of a Feb. 27 White House meeting on the Renewable Fuel Standard, urging President Donald Trump to avoid seeking change ...

[Aviation Biofuels: 10 Years, 100,000 Flights and We're Still Arguing about Feedstock – Why?](#)

February 27, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) This week marks the 10th anniversary of the first demo flight on biofuel which was done by Virgin Atlantic.

LanzaTech CEO Jennifer Holmgren shared the factoid that, since that day, more than ...

[Exclusive: Trump Calls Meeting on Biofuels Policy after Refiner Bankruptcy](#)

February 26, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) U.S. President Donald Trump has called a meeting early next week with key senators and Cabinet officials to discuss potential changes to biofuels policy, which is coming under increasing pressure after a ...

[Icahn's Biofuel Fight Lives On](#)

February 23, 2018 – by Jennifer A. Dlouhy (Bloomberg) Ethanol industry and oil refiners both feel threatened; Biofuel mandate divides two states that voted for Trump — Top Trump administration officials are planning two summits to discuss possible changes to ...

[Carmakers' 'Harmonization' Push Could Soften Fuel Efficiency Gains \(1\)](#)

February 22, 2018 – by Abby Smith (Bloomberg Environment) Automakers seek consistency in EPA, NHTSA programs as agencies weigh standards' future; Environmentalists say push is meant to soften vehicle limits — Automakers may already get what they want this spring as ...

[Ethanol Industry Speaks out against PES Anti-RFS Rally](#)

February 21, 2018 –by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On Feb. 21, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, spoke at a rally against the Renewable Fuel Standard

hosted by Philadelphia Energy Solutions Inc., a refiner that recently blamed the RFS and ...

Latest in Federal Litigation



International trade, GMOs, Philadelphia refinery's bankruptcy, EPA challenges top litigation news this month.

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](#).

[\\$1.5 Billion Settlement Reached in Syngenta GMO Class Action Suit](#)

March 14, 2018 – by Susan Reidy (World-Grain.com) A \$1.5 billion settlement has been reached in the nationwide class action suit over Syngenta's genetically modified corn seed. It is believed to be one of the largest agricultural settlements in U.S. ...

[EPA Spares Philly Refiner in Bankruptcy Settlement](#)

March 13, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) EPA will allow bankrupt refinery Philadelphia Energy Solutions to meet only a portion of its outstanding obligation under the Renewable Fuel Standard as part of a settlement filed with ...

[EPA Says Fuel Retailers Can't Fight Renewable Mandates](#)

February 22, 2018 –by Cara Bayles (Law 360) A trade group representing small

fuel retailers can't challenge U.S. Environmental Protection Agency benchmarks for renewable fuels blended into the nation's gas and diesel supply because its members aren't subject to the ...

[NBB Coalition Secures Affirmative Final Decision on Dumping of Biodiesel Imports](#)

February 22, 2018 – (National Biodiesel Board) Commerce Department Finds That Argentina and Indonesia Sell Biodiesel Imports Below Fair Value in US — The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) Fair Trade Coalition won a final antidumping determination from the Commerce Department. The ...

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Advanced Biofuels USA Current Policy Analyses and Suggestions

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Letter in support of Farm Bill Energy Title

On March 6, 2018, a coalition of over 200 companies and trade associations, including Advanced Biofuels USA, sent a [letter](#) to the Agricultural Committee leaders in the House and Senate urging the reauthorization of and stable mandatory funding for the energy title programs in the next Farm Bill reauthorization.

The less than one tenth of one percent of Farm Bill spending dedicated to the

Energy Title programs has allowed for ag-based entrepreneurs to launch initiatives to generate jobs and economic development.

The letter provides recommendations for further improving the energy title programs. For example, the Biorefinery Assistance Program (BAP) could be opened fully to standalone renewable chemical companies; the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) could be enhanced to support a fuller range of important, proven, market-ready technologies; and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) could be effective in continuing to support biomass energy development and sustainably address hazardous fuels reduction efforts in our nation's forests. [READ MORE](#)

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER, too! 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.

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