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## **Open for Public Comment**

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### [The Safer and Affordable Fuel Efficient Vehicles Proposed Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 COMMENTS DUE: October 23, 2018](#)

(Environmental Protection Agency) The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) propose to amend certain existing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks and establish new standards, covering model years 2021 through 2026. Public Comments: The EPA docket ... [Read Full Article](#)

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## 2018 US Senate and House Elections

Biofuels should be 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](#) .



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## Latest Federal Legislation Posts



ExxonMobil is keeping **carbon taxes** in the news. **Farm Bill** is delayed. Legislation for **year-round E15** comes up with oil industry threats to sue over the proposed regulatory "fix." **Algae** celebrates appropriations.

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.

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[ExxonMobil Gives \\$1 Million to Promote a Carbon Tax-and-Dividend Plan](#)

by Steven Mufson (Washington Post) The tax would boost prices of the oil giant's fossil fuels to fight climate change " ExxonMobil will give \$1 million over two years to a group promoting a plan that would tax the carbon content of fuels, including the oil giant's products, and return the proceeds...

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### [A Superior Value: A Workshop in Anerobic Digestion](#)

by Bill Keba\* (Advanced Biofuels USA) October 2, 2018, Annapolis, Maryland. Inside the Doubletree Inn, it was as hectic as the traffic on Route 50. Eightyfive paid attendees were gathering, registering, networking, and hurriedly settling in for the 9:15 start of this workshop titled Opportunities and Challenges in Anaerobic Digestion:...

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### [It's Past Midnight: Do You Know Where Funds for Your Farm Bill Energy Title Programs Stand?](#)

by Brent Erickson (Biotechnology Innovation Organization/Biofuels Digest) On September 30th, the 2018 Farm Bill officially expired. And while both chambers of Congress passed their respective bills, the final version of the legislation that supports the agricultural sector in the U.S. is still being negotiated between House and Senate leaders in conference...

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### [NBB Appreciates Bipartisan Support for Biodiesel Tax Incentive Extension](#)

(National Biodiesel Board) Forty-six bipartisan members of Congress ask House leaders for a multi-year extension " Today (September 27, 2018), the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) thanked the 46 Congressmembers " led by Rep. David

Young (R-IA) and Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA) “ who voiced their strong support for a multi-year extension of...

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### [The Future of Biofuels Discussed at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Leadership Conference](#)

by Joanne Ivancic (Advanced Biofuels USA) I was pleased and excited to be invited to speak on a “Future of Biofuels” panel at this fall’s Leadership Conference of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, whose purpose is “Developing the Next Generation of Latino Leaders”. Sponsored by the American Fuel & Petrochemical...

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### [ABO Secures \\$44 million for Algae, Carbon Utilization Research in FY 2019](#)

(Algae Biomass Organization) Following close on the heels of the U.S. Department of Energy’s latest round of algae funding awards, President Trump Friday (September 21, 2018) signed into law a Fiscal Year 2019 spending bill providing an additional \$44 million in FY2019 for algae and carbon utilization research “ the highest funding level for ...

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### [Can the Bioeconomy Help Combat Plastic Waste?](#)

by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) Recent reports have underscored the enormity of the global plastic waste issue. There are 9.2 billion tons of plastic waste in the environment and an additional 500 tons of plastics are produced annually. Of this, 40 percent is considered single-use plastic, and only ...

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## [Smith Awarded "High Octane Champion" Award from Nebraska's Ethanol Industry](#)

by Chad Moyer (KTIC Radio) Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE) has been recognized as a 2018 High Octane Champion by Renewable Fuels Nebraska, the trade association for Nebraska's ethanol industry. The award was developed by the RFN membership as a way to recognize public policy leaders that strongly support Nebraska's \$5 billion...

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## [Midterm Elections, RVO Decisions, and Lame Duck Tax Relief](#)

by Michael McAdams (Advanced Biofuels Association) When testifying recently before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the acting administrator was judicious in answering questions about EPA's small refinery exemptions (SREs). He has publicly stated that there should be more transparency in the process for granting SREs, and that it would...

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## [Farm Bill Delay Possible as Deadline Looms](#)

(NAFB News Service/Hoosier Ag Today) The farm bill deadline at the end of the month could pass without a new farm bill or an extension. As the pace of the farm bill committee stalls, leadership says the actual deadline that would have any impact on farm country is in December, if...

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## **[Latest on Federal Regulation](#)**



Now that President Trump has started the **year-round E15** and **RINs adjustment** regulatory ball rolling, ghosts of old myths about ethanol are raising their heads out of the grave, with even the Washington Post renewing their lives and applying them to "biofuels" in general.

The California **LCFS/RFS/SAFE/CAA/GHG** confusion continues with comments on the SAFE proposed regulations due October 23, with an invitation to comment on **high octane/high ethanol** blends for increased mileage and decreased emissions.

See also articles in Litigation below for overlapping topics.

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### [The Truth about E15 and Smog](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) On October 9, President Trump announced that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon begin a rulemaking process to allow year-round sales of E15 (gasoline containing 15% ethanol) in conventional gasoline markets, which account for nearly 70% of total U.S. gasoline consumption.[1] Much of the media coverage surrounding...

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### [Alternative Fuels Ethanol and Air Quality – Separating Fact from Fiction](#)

by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) – After Tuesday's announcement, the oil industry and some environmental groups were quick to claim that increasing the volume of ethanol in the fuel supply would worsen air quality. However, the evidence suggests otherwise. An obscure piece of air quality regulation – Reid Vapor Pressure ...

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## [Doubling Down on the Biofuel Boondoggle](#)

(Washington Post) For more than a decade, the United States has pursued the foolhardy energy policy known as the Renewable Fuel Standard, or RFS. Thanks to legislation passed by a Democratic Congress and signed into law by a Republican president, George W. Bush, in 2007, the RFS illustrates the sad-but-true principle ...

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## [Don't Buy Big Oil's Lies On E15](#)

(Urban Air Initiative) It didn't take long. Minutes after President Trump announced he wanted to see E15 sold year round, the anti ethanol messages started. As President Trump himself said "ethanol makes the air cleaner" , Big Oil was spreading lies that ethanol hurts our cars and the environment. This is simply not true. ...

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## [Help Wanted: Job Interview for High Octane & Low Carbon](#)

by Doug Durante and Doug Sombke (Clean Fuels Development Coalition/South Dakota Farmers Union/Biofuels Digest) | However, we may have a unique and perhaps unprecedented opportunity for a do-over with the proposed fuel economy rule. While we take no position on exactly what the mileage standards should be, whatever they are we can ...

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## [President Trump's Ethanol Expansion Has Immediate Positive Impact on Attis Industries](#)

(Attis Industries/NewMediaWire/FuturesTradingCharts.com) | Jeff Cosman, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, explains, "The increased inclusion

allowance plays a vital role in the expansion of renewable fuel production. The timing couldn't be better for Attis as we plan to build our first of many biorefineries that will produce cellulosic ethanol and biobased materials. Without the ...

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### [President Opens up E15 Sales: Trump Directs EPA to Allow Year-Round E15 and a More Transparent RINs Market](#)

by Chris Clayton and Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Leading into President Donald Trump's trip to Council Bluffs, Iowa, on Tuesday, a senior White House official said Tuesday that the president has directed the Environmental Protection Agency to create a new rule allowing year-round sales of 15% ethanol blends. Monte Shaw ...

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### [CARB Action on LCFS Underscores Need for Ethanol-Supported HOLC Fuels](#)

(Solutions from the Land) Asserting that they are taking the state's climate fight up a notch, members of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) last week adopted amendments to the state's low-carbon fuel standard (LCFS) that could enhance the role of E85 and the use of ethanol in high-octane, low-carbon (HOLC)

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### [A Bird's Eye View of Bioenergy](#)

by Bill Keba\* (Advanced Biofuels USA) The Mid-Atlantic Bioenergy Conference and Expo (MABEX) was held on September 12 and 13 at the Convene at CityView



in Philadelphia, Pa. The Mid-Atlantic Bioenergy Council did well in selecting this terrific skyscraping venue. It provided a wonderful bird's eye view of the city ...

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### [RFA Reacts to Talk Administration Considering Limits on Trading Biofuel Credits](#)

(WNAX) Sources says the Trump administration is considering limits on trading biofuel credits. The goal is to discourage speculation and reduce costs for oil refiners to comply with U.S. biofuels policy. Renewable Fuels Association Executive Vice President Geoff Cooper says at this point, that's just speculation, but his group is monitoring ...

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### [Alternative Fuels Council Helps with RFS RIN Management](#)

by Betsy Lillian (NGT News) The Alternative Fuels Council, a subsidiary of NATSO Inc., a national association representing the travel plaza and truckstop industry, has launched a new service designed to help fuel retailers that blend and sell renewable fuels to more efficiently participate in the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and ...

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### [Contrary to Columnist's Claims, the RFS Works](#)

by Cassidy Walter (The Gazette/Iowa Renewable Fuels Association) As an outspoken libertarian in favor of open markets, it is unfortunate that in a recent column, Adam Sullivan did not look closer at the history of U.S. energy policy before disregarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) while blindly repeating every discredited claim about biofuels ...

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## [California Affirms Auto Rules, Asks Carmakers to Share Compliance Plans](#)

by Darius Dixon (Politico's Morning Energy) The California Air Resources Board on Friday approved a rule warning automakers that they will have to meet the current greenhouse gas emissions standards in California and its allied states, even after the Trump administration rolls back the federal rules. The so-called "deemed to

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## [Counterpoint: Ending Ethanol in Fuel Mandate Will Create Economic and Environmental Disaster](#)

by Wayne Madsen (State Journal-Register) When federal environmental standards are under assault from an administration that appears bent on rolling back the clock to an era of smog and air pollution caused by the use of dirty fossil fuels, now is not the time to abandon national clean fuel mandates. "The

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## [Update1-White House Mulls Limits on Biofuel Trading as Part of E15 Deal-Sources](#)

by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The White House is considering imposing restrictions on trading of biofuel credits, hoping to discourage speculation and reduce costs for oil refiners to comply with U.S. biofuels policy, according to three sources familiar with the discussions. "The move would be part of a widely anticipated deal to ...

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## [Ethanol Credits Criticized by Icahn Drop to Pennies Under Trump](#)

by Mario Parker and Jennifer A Dlouhy (Bloomberg) Gradual drop seen as refiners, farmers debate White House deal; Icahn owns 82% stake in independent

oil refiner CVR Energy – The biofuel compliance credits used by refiners and criticized by billionaire Carl Icahn have tumbled to pennies from nearly a dollar when Donald Trump won ...

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### [Automakers Seek Flexibility at Hearing on Mileage Standards](#)

by Tom Krisher and Sudhin Thanawala (Associated Press) Automakers sought flexibility while environmental groups blasted the Trump administration’s proposal to roll back fuel economy standards at a public hearing on the plan in the industry’s backyard. At the hearing Tuesday in Dearborn, Michigan, home to Ford Motor Co. and just miles ...

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### [RFA Testifies in Support of High Octane Low Carbon Fuels at EPA/NHTSA Hearing](#)

by Rachel Gantz (Renewable Fuels Association) A high-octane, low-carbon fuel containing 20-40% ethanol used in optimized engines would be the lowest cost means of achieving compliance with fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards for model year 2021-2026 and beyond, Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Kelly Davis will testify today ...

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### [California Urges Trump Administration to Abandon Fuel Rule Plan](#)

by David Shepardson (Reuters) California’s top air regulator urged the Trump administration on Sunday to abandon a plan to freeze fuel efficiency standards through 2026, as automakers urged state and federal regulators to reach agreement to extend nationwide rules. Mary Nichols, who chairs the state’s Air Resources Board, asked the U.S. ...

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## [Midterm Elections, RVO Decisions, and Lame Duck Tax Relief](#)

by Michael McAdams (Advanced Biofuels Association) â€| When testifying recently before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the acting administrator was judicious in answering questions about EPAâ€™s small refinery exemptions (SREs). He has publicly stated that there should be more transparency in the process for granting SREs, and that it would ...

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## [NBB, ASA Ask President Trump to Support Biodiesel Producers, Soy Farmers](#)

(National Biodiesel Board) Allowing year-round use of E15 is a positive step for ethanol, but doesnâ€™t support biodiesel â€” Today, the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) and the American Soybean Association (ASA) wrote President Donald Trump asking that he â€œprovide additional help to the nationâ€™s farmers and rural communities by supporting policies that ...

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## [UPDATE 2-EPA Details Broad Expansion of Biofuel Waiver Program](#)

by Chris Prentice, Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published new data detailing how it drastically expanded a biofuels waiver program for oil refiners since President Donald Trumpâ€™s administration took office, responding to pressure from the corn lobby to boost transparency over the opaque program. The details published on ...

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## [Energy Security Group Makes Case for Car Rules as Trump Tweets](#)

(Washington Examiner) The military cost of defending oil trade routes makes a solid case for keeping in place strong fuel-economy standards, the group Securing America's Future Energy said in a report released soon after Trump began tweeting about OPEC prices on Thursday. "Following President Trump's OPEC tweet this morning, in which he ...

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### [EPA to Make RFS Waiver Info Public](#)

by Anna-Lisa Laca (AgWeb) Over the past year, farmers and ethanol advocates alike have pressed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be more transparent when it comes to Renewable Identification Number (RIN) waivers for small refineries. Today, EPA recognized that concern and created a handful of new sections on their website ...

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### [A Worldwide Oil Mandate](#)

by Orrie Swazye (Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan) Our gasoline market today is 90 percent gasoline and Brazil's 75 percent gasoline but oil still supplies 99+ percent of transportation fuels worldwide. As we begin to net export oil, oil remains a mandated commodity nations will go to war to gain ...

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### [Renewable Fuel Standards Boosts Air Quality](#)

by Bob Dinneen (Renewable Fuels Association/My San Antonio) The Express-News Editorial Board recently missed the mark, claiming that the Renewable Fuel Standard, or RFS, is bad policy. The RFS has boosted local economies,

strengthened U.S. energy security and improved overall air quality. The Editorial Board cites an outdated and scientifically ...

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### [EPA's SAB to Address Biogenic CO2 Framework at Sept. 26 Meeting](#)

by Erin Voegle (Biomass Magazine) The U.S. EPA has announced its Chartered Science Advisory Board will hold a teleconference Sept. 26 to address several issues, including a new draft SAB review of EPA's Framework for Assessing Biogenic CO2 Emissions from Stationary Sources. Efforts by the EPA and SAB to develop a ...

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## Latest in Federal Litigation



Litigation threats related to proposed **year-round E15** regulations are included in Regulations news above.

Unfortunately, **fraud** again dominates litigation news, tarnishing the reputation of biofuels in general; or, maybe fortunately because scofflaws are being brought to justice.

For more on federal litigation, [click here](#).

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### [D.C. Circuit Will Be All Ears for RFS Arguments](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) A panel of D.C. Circuit appellate judges today will hear yet another iteration of arguments over the

Renewable Fuel Standard. The court has allowed an hour and 40 minutes to delve into the issues at stake, and if MEâ€™s experience is any guide, they ...

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### [Pennsylvania Man Pleads Guilty to Biodiesel Tax Conspiracy](#)

(U.S. Department of Justice) A Harrisburg, Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court to one count of conspiring to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), announced Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard E. Zuckerman of the Justice Departmentâ€™s Tax Division, Acting Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey H. Wood of the Justice ...

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### [NGL Crude Logistics LLC Agrees to Pay \\$25 Million Civil Penalty and to Retire \\$10 Million in Renewable Fuel Production Credits Under Settlement With United States](#)

(U.S. Department of Justice) The Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced a settlement with NGL Crude Logistics, LLC that requires the company to retire 36 million renewable fuel credits and pay a \$25 million civil penalty under the settlement to resolve violations of the Renewable Fuel ...

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### [Company Ordered to Pay \\$31.9M to SEC for Biofuel Fraud](#)

by Dave Stafford (The Indiana Lawyer) Evansville-based Imperial Petroleum Inc. has been ordered to pay nearly \$32 million to the Securities and Exchange Commission after it failed to reply to the SECâ€™s court filings seeking damages in a biofuels fraud case that resulted in prison time for the former company president. Senior ...

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Joanne: **If you read some of these articles and say to yourself, "That's Just Wrong!"** then you understand the need for biofuels education. This is not easy stuff to understand. And reporters (and folks who read their articles and make purchasing and investing decisions based on them) may not have much background in renewable energy or transportation fuels and engines, let alone the intricacies and nuances of the places *where the rubber of policy meets the road of legislation, regulations and litigation. Heck, even the people working on those laws and regulations could use a refresher.*

We are doing something about that every day.

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Thanks,

Joanne Ivancic, Executive Director



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