Federal Legislation, Regulation, Litigation. Policy. Scroll down for exciting Advanced Biofuels USA News!

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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 <u>here</u> and on our <u>website</u> with category, <u>2018 Election Activities</u> and tag,<u>2018 US Senate and House Campaigns</u>.

# **Open Public Comment Requests**

EPA Opens Public Comment Period on Isobutanol Fuel Registration DEADLINE: April 30, 2018

by Erin Voegele (Biomass Magazine) The U.S. EPA is seeking public comment on any aspect of the use of isobutanol in gasoline in response to fuel registration application filed by Butamax Advanced Biofuels LLC. The public ...

## **Latest Federal Legislation Posts**



This month's focus falls on two biofuels-related areas of legislation: **revisions to the Renewable Fuel Standard** and the **Farm Bill**, particularly the Energy Title. With fall-out from the budget deal and biofuels **tax credits** still in the mix. Plus a new **algae farming bill** is introduced. And more on the **GREENER Act**.

For more legislative news (including Executive Orders), click here.

We also follow <u>policy developments</u> 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, <u>www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org</u>.

#### Draft 2018 Farm Bill Reauthorizes Energy Title Programs

April 13, 2018 – by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On April 12, House Agriculture Committee Chairman K. Michael Conaway, R-Texas, released a draft of the 2018 Farm Bill, officially titled the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018. The legislation ...

#### Rural Issues Growing Jobs and Rural Economies: The Farm Bill's Energy Title

April 6, 2018 – by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) Since their inception in the 2002 Farm Bill, Energy Title (Title IX) programs have helped farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and rural communities generate thousands of jobs and millions in economic ...

Exclusive: Biofuels Battle – Senator Moves to Expand Small Refiner Exemption April 6, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw, Chris Prentice (Reuters) Lawmakers spearheading efforts to reform U.S. biofuels regulations are considering a blanket waiver for all small refineries, according to four sources familiar with their draft legislation. The move would save some ...

#### Rep. Collin Peterson Voices Support For Minnesota's Ethanol Industry

April 3, 2018 – (Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) Rep. Collin Peterson visited the Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company (CVEC) plant in Benson on March 28 to reiterate his support for Minnesota's ethanol industry.

"Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company is doing some exciting work and ...

#### 2018 ACE Fly-in

April 2, 2018 – (AgNewsWire) American Coalition for Ethanol celebrates 10 years of taking the message of grassroots ethanol producers, retailers, farmers and consumers to Capitol Hill. This year's theme is Ignite a Movement.

This virtual ag newsroom includes links to photos ...

#### Exclusive: Trump Weighs Dropping Personal Efforts on Biofuel Reform - Sources

March 30, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) President Donald Trump is seriously considering abandoning efforts to remake the nation's biofuel laws after wading deep into an issue that divides some of his core constituencies, according to three sources ...

#### High Tech Algae Farming Industry Gets Boost with Introduction of Bipartisan Algae Agriculture Act of 2018

March 23, 2018 – (Algae Biomass Organization/Globe Newswire) The Algae Biomass Organization (ABO), the trade association for the algae industry, today

applauded the introduction of the Algae Agriculture Act of 2018, a bill that would give algae cultivators and harvesters many of ...

#### NBB Again Disappointed by Failure to Renew Biodiesel Tax Credit

March 22, 2018 – (National Biodiesel Board) Congress Reaches Another Deal to Fund the Government That Fails to Reinstate the Biodiesel Tax Credit — Today, the U.S. Congress is expected to pass an omnibus spending bill to fund the government that ...

#### Ag Policy Blog: Senators Detail Farm Bill Goals

March 22, 2018 – by Chris Clayton (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Leaders of the Senate Agriculture Committee are getting ready to move ahead on drafting a farm bill, ideally in April, and will seek to avoid the rancor over food ...

#### <u>RFA Leader: EPA Eroding RFS — Assistant to President Says Search Continues for a</u> <u>Win-Win Proposal</u>

March 22, 2018 – by Chris Clayton (DTN The Progressive Farmer) A special assistant to President Donald Trump on agriculture said Wednesday, "the search for a win-win continues" in the debate over how to relieve oil refiners of their obligations ...

#### It's Here! ... The (Spending) Level Playing Field

March 22, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) EPA grants rise: The agency's operational budget would remain pretty much the same, but grant programs get a boost, Alex Guillén and Annie Snider report. That means the Clean Water and ...

#### What Would a Bill Look Like?

March 21, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Sen. John

Cornyn and Rep. John Shimkus have some ideas. The two have been working on a bill for well over a year to overhaul the Renewable Fuel Standard, a likely ...

#### 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 ...

# Latest on Federal Regulation



The word of the month is "WAIVER". It applies to international **trade policy** with China, to EPA waiving **RINs obligations** in the bankruptcy settlement of the oil refinery, Philadelphia Energy Solutions and to the

explosion of **"small refinery waiver"** requests approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. It applies to the old **E15 Reid Vapor Pressure** "one pound waiver" in White House Renewable Fuel Standard negotiations. And, it applies to the **CAFE** (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) mid-term review and California's role in setting mileage and pollution standards.

Confusion about waivers this month is entirely understandable. Read the articles listed below to make it through the tangles.

Scroll down for details, for information about regulations related to these topics and

others among our <u>latest postings</u>. Others you'll find in the <u>Federal Regulations</u> category online.

#### ACE Addressing Ethanol Marketing Challenges at NEB Forum

April 17, 2018 – (American Coalition for Ethanol/Ethanol Producer Magazine) American Coalition for Ethanol board member and past board president Ron Alverson of Dakota Ethanol speaks today at Nebraska Ethanol Board's 2018 Emerging Issues Forum in Omaha, Nebraska, about assessing ...

#### RFA: E15 Debuts in St. Louis Metro Region

April 17, 2018 – (Renewable Fuels Association/Ethanol Producer Magazine) The Renewable Fuels Association is excited to announce that E15 has debuted in the St. Louis area and will be available throughout the year.

Home Service Oil Co. now offers both E15 ...

#### Advocating for Commercialization of Biobased Products: The Digest's 2018 Multi-Slide Guide to BRAG

April 17, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Renewable chemicals are emerging at a fast pace, paving the way for new, innovative, and sustainable biobased products. A coalition of companies and trade associations committed to enhancing the legal and ...

#### House Hearing Focus on High Octane Fuels

April 13, 2018 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment will be holding a hearing this morning (Friday, April 13, 2018) on "High Octane Fuels and High Efficiency Vehicles: Challenges and Opportunities." (Post includes links to testimony)

#### Exclusive: Chevron, Exxon Seek 'Small Refinery' Waivers from U.S. Biofuels Law

April 13, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters) Global energy giants Chevron Corp and Exxon Mobil have asked U.S. regulators for exemptions to the nation's biofuels policy that have historically been reserved for small companies in financial ...

#### Biodiesel Industry Calls on EPA to Eliminate Secrecy

April 13, 2018 – (National Biodiesel Board) NBB Submits FOIA Request to Ensure RFS Transparency — The National Biodiesel Board submitted a Freedom of Information Act Request aimed at shedding light on small refiner exemptions requested and issued under the Renewable ...

#### In Boost for Farmers, Trump Says He May Allow E15 Gasoline Sales All Year

April 13, 2018 – by Jeff Mason (Reuters) U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday his administration may allow the sale of gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol year-round, which could help farmers by firing up corn demand but faces opposition ...

#### Trump Administration Weighs High-Ethanol Fuel Waiver to Placate Farmers

April 12, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters) The Trump administration is considering allowing the sale of a higher ethanol fuel blend in the summer, a source familiar with the issue said, a move that would placate ...

#### <u>EPA Approves First Underground Injection Control Program Primacy for Carbon</u> <u>Sequestration Wells to North Dakota</u>

April 12, 2018 – (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) Today (April 10, 2018), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it has approved the State of North Dakota's request to implement and enforce its own Class VI Underground Injection Control (UIC) ...

#### Isobutanol's Horizons: The Digest's 2018 Multi-Slide Guide to Gevo

April 12, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Gevo has two proprietary technologies that combine to make it possible to retrofit existing ethanol plants to produce isobutanol, a four carbon alcohol which serves as a hydrocarbon platform molecule. They ...

#### States to Sue EPA over Failure to Enforce Landfill Gas Rules

April 11, 2018 – by Erin Voegele (Biomass Magazine) A coalition led by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and the California Air Resources board has announced plans to sue the U.S. EPA over its failure to enforce existing landfill methane ...

#### California Says a Car-Emissions Deal With Trump Could Be Doable

April 11, 2018 – by Mark Chediak, Ryan Beene, and John Lippert (Bloomberg) 'Reason could prevail,' chair of Air Resources Board says; State is considering a lawsuit to preserve its options — California's top airquality regulator sees hope for a deal with ...

#### Trump to Put Biofuel Reform Push on Ice, for Now: Sources

April 11, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The Trump administration will delay any moves to reform the nation's biofuel policy for about three months, according to three sources briefed on the matter – a decision one of the sources …

#### Trump Ethanol Moves May Be Worse for Farmers Than Soy Tariff

April 10, 2018 – by Mario Parker (Bloomberg) Change to biofuel mandate may mean destruction of corn demand; Growers already dealing with trade concerns, crop gluts — Based on his own back-of-the-envelope calculations, Minnesota farmer Kirby Hettver could lose tens of thousands …

#### RFS Wrangling Continues: GOP Senators Ask for Small-Refiner Waiver Suspension

April 10, 2018 – by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Details have yet to emerge from a planned meeting at the White House on Monday between President Donald Trump and members of his cabinet regarding possible changes to the ...

#### U.S. Ethanol Policy Under Siege

April 9, 2018 – by Robert Rapier (Forbes) ... Mr. Constantine (Tim Constantine, a spokesperson for Rethink Ethanol) believes that we will soon see an announcement from the White House on the nation's ethanol program, and it's probably not going to ...

#### ACE: New Video Addresses Gasoline Retailer E15 Liability Concerns

April 6, 2018 – (American Coalition for Ethanol/Ethanol Producer Magazine) A controversial new video was released today, addressing fuel retailer concerns about potential liability for vehicle damage from the new E15 fuel on the flexfuelforward.com website. The video features current E15 marketers talking openly ...

#### Vehicle Transformation through New Fuels: The Digest's 2018 Multi-Slide Guide to the <u>Clean Fuels Development Coalition</u>

April 6, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) It may be renaissance times for the Clean Fuels Development Coalition. Their long quest to upend proposed Obamaera vehicle efficiency rules that ignored the potential to improve efficiency and emissions via ...

#### White House Plans to Hold RFS Meeting Monday

April 6, 2018 – by Mark Dorenkamp (Brownfield Ag News) The White House plans to hold a Monday meeting to discuss possible changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

Minnesota Corn Growers president Kirby Hettver says it appears EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt ...

#### U.S. Ethanol Groups Bristle as EPA Frees Refiners from Biofuels Law

April 5, 2018 –by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved the request of 25 small refineries to be exempted from the nation's biofuels laws, an agency source said on Wednesday, marking a ...

#### Investors Stunned over Oil Producer's Climate-Change Exemption

April 4, 2018 – by Amy Harder (Axios) ... Trillium proposed a resolution calling on EOG to set a target to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. EOG complained to the SEC in late December that the proposal would micromanage the company, calling it a ...

#### Grassley Slams EPA RFS Waivers

April 4, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Sen. Chuck Grassley joined corn growers and ethanol producers in slamming a report Tuesday that refining giant Andeavor got a hardship waiver from the Renewable Fuel Standard for its ...

#### McConnell to Back Legal Hemp

April 4, 2018 – by Bruce Schreiner (Arkansas Online/Associated Press) Senate leader's bill will take it off controlled substance list — The U.S. Senate's top leader said Monday that he wants to bring hemp production back into the mainstream by removing ...

<u>Cleaner Cars Create Jobs — New Study Shows Strong Vehicle Standards Boost Economy</u> April 3, 2018 – (Union of Concerned Scientists) Vehicle efficiency and emissions standards are a remarkably successful policy, delivering cleaner cars every year, saving drivers money at the pump, and reducing the pollution that causes climate change. A new study has found ...

#### Trump to Roll Back Fuel Standards for Cars, Light Trucks — Ford, GM Positions

April 3, 2018 –by Todd Spangler and Eric Lawrence (Detroit Free Press) ... General Motors said that, regardless of what standard is ultimately set, it remained committed to "improving fuel economy, reducing emissions and an all-electric future," including working on ...

#### EPA Actions on the RFS are Destroying Demand for Ethanol and Corn

April 3, 2018 – by Geoff Cooper (Renewable Fuels Association) Recent actions by EPA have effectively reduced the Renewable Fuel Standard conventional renewable volume obligation (RVO) for 2016 by more than 1 billion gallons, and the agency appears poised to ...

#### Calif. to Fight Trump's 'Politically Motivated' Car Standards Plan

April 3, 2018 – by Timothy Cama and Miranda Green (The Hill) California officials promised Monday to put up a fight against the Trump administration's newly announced decision to lower standards for car tailpipe emissions.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared Monday ...

Recall Of CAFE Rule Is Opportunity To Improve Fuel Quality

April 2, 2018 – (Urban Air Initiative) The announcement by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the fuel economy rules rushed through in late 2016 will be revised is an encouraging first step for high octane fuels to play ...

# RFA: EPA and NHTSA Should Consider Role of High Octane Fuels in Upcoming CAFE/GHG Rulemaking

April 2, 2018 – by Emily Druckman (Renewable Fuels Association) The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) today encouraged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to strongly consider the role of high-octane fuels and higher ...

#### EPA Orders Revised CAFE Targets, May Revoke California's Waiver

April 2, 2018 – by Eric Kulisch (Auto News) Move applauded by auto industry, denounced by other businesses — EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Monday announced that aggressive light-vehicle fuel efficiency and emissions limits set under the Obama administration for model years ...

#### EPA Publishes CAFE Standards Mid-Term Evaluation Final Determination

April 2, 2018 – (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) On April 2, 2018, the Administrator signed the Mid-term Evaluation Final Determination which finds that the model year 2022-2025 greenhouse gas standards are not appropriate in light of the record before EPA ...

#### Commentary: Biofuels Are Driving US Growth

April 2, 2018 – by Jim Talent (Tribune News Service/Madison.com/Americans for Energy Security and Innovation) ... Biofuels are a target because they supply a full 10 percent of America's motor fuel, and every extra gallon increases competition at the ...

#### How EPA Is Destroying Demand for Ethanol and Corn

April 2, 2018 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) Recent actions by EPA have effectively reduced the Renewable Fuel Standard conventional renewable volume obligation (RVO) for 2016 by more than 1 billion gallons, and the agency appears poised to take similar ...

#### BIO Comments on Proposed Settlement Agreement Between EPA and Philadelphia Energy Solutions on RFS Obligations

April 2, 2018 – (Biotechnology Innovation Organization) BIO is greatly concerned by the Department of Justice's and Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Settlement Agreement to resolve a dispute about the PES Holdings' obligations under the Renewable Fuel Standard.

. . .

This Settlement Agreement ...

#### Auto Exec: Raise the Octane Rating of U.S. Gasoline for Bump in Fuel Efficiency

March 30, 2018 – by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) At a recent American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers meeting, General Motors executive Dan Nicholson voiced the automaker's support in raising the minimum octane rating of the U.S. gasoline ...

#### <u>Regulatory Fixes Will Open the Market to Ethanol Quickly</u> — How EPA Could Easily Remedy Issues with RINs.

March 30, 2018 – by Adam Gustafson (Boyden Gray and Associates/Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... Such short-term fixes to high RIN prices ignore their underlying cause—EPA's artificial constraints on the volume of ethanol that can be blended into the nation's fuel ...

#### Where's Ethanol Going to Go?

March 23, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... According to POET CEO Jeff Broin, there's a deal on the table — changing almost by the hour, but a deal none the less. A deal on the table to provide year-round E15 ...

#### 10-Day Comment Period on PES Settlement Agreement Closes March 26

March 21, 2018 – by Ron Kotrba (Biodiesel Magazine) The public comment period opened March 16 after publication in the Federal Register on the proposed consent decree and environmental settlement agreement lodged by the U.S. Department of Justice with the U.S. Bankruptcy ...

<u>Trump Administration Preparing List of Possible Biofuels Tweaks – Sources</u> March 20, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The heads of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Agriculture Department are scheduled to meet on Tuesday to winnow down proposals to lower the cost of the nation's biofuels policy to oil ...

# Latest in Federal Litigation



The Philadelphia refinery's **bankruptcy**, waivers from **RINs** obligations granted to oil refineries and threats of litigation from **California** in response to the White House CAFE standards review received plenty of

coverage. Posts often have links to multiple articles.

The Urban Air Initiative stood up to Sierra Club erroneous statements about

ethanol in a law suit. And a court in **San Francisco** considers holding oil companies responsible for global warming. Any mention of them switching to biofuels to mediate the damage?

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.

#### Urban Air Initiative Discredits Sierra Club's Inaccurate Assumptions About Ethanol

April 6, 2018 –(Urban Air Initiative) In an effort to rebut erroneous assumptions about ethanol's health effects in a lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club, the Urban Air Initiative submitted an amicus brief describing the health benefits of blending ...

#### U.S. Ethanol Groups Bristle as EPA Frees Refiners from Biofuels Law

April 5, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved the request of 25 small refineries to be exempted from the nation's biofuels laws, an agency source said on Wednesday, marking a ...

#### Bankruptcy Judge Lets Refiner off the RFS Hook

April 5, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) A Delaware Bankruptcy judge approved a consent decree between EPA and bankrupt refiner Philadelphia Energy Solutions, allowing PES to get out of much of its obligation under the Renewable Fuel ...

#### Calif. to Fight Trump's 'Politically Motivated' Car Standards Plan

April 3, 2018 – by Timothy Cama and Miranda Green (The Hill) California officials promised Monday to put up a fight against the Trump administration's newly announced decision to lower standards for car tailpipe emissions.

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• • •

This Settlement Agreement ...

#### <u>RFA Leader: EPA Eroding RFS</u> — Assistant to President Says Search Continues for a Win-Win Proposal

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#### UPDATE 2-Pennsylvania Says Bankrupt Refiner Owes \$3.8 bln in Taxes - Filing

March 20, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The state of Pennsylvania wants a federal judge to halt the bankruptcy of Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES),

arguing the refiner owes an estimated \$3.8 billion in fuel taxes, according to a court ....

#### Big Oil Faces Big Test in Climate-Change Court Showdown with SF, Oakland

March 20, 2018 – by Kurtis Alexander (San Francisco Chronicle) A San Francisco judge who must decide whether to hold the world's largest oil companies responsible for global warming is ordering up what many are calling the most comprehensive, and ...

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# Advanced Biofuels USA Current Policy Analyses and Suggestions

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