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Open for Public Comment

[The Safer and Affordable Fuel Efficient Vehicles Proposed Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 COMMENTS DUE: October 2, 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](#)

[E10 Petrol, Consumer Protection and Fuel Pump Labelling UK COMMENTS DUE September 16, 2018](#)

(UK Department for Transport) Seeking views on a range of issues related to renewable transport fuel supply in the UK. — Unleaded petrol in the UK contains up to 5% bioethanol, a grade known as E5. E10 petrol contains up to 10% bioethanol and is not yet available in the UK. This ...[Read Full Article](#)

[MORE OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTS](#)

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](#) .



Latest Federal Legislation Posts



Carbon taxes or a **price on carbon** and the **Farm Bill**, particularly the **Energy Title**, are the hot legislative topics of the month, along with discussions about whether legislation is needed to provide a federal OK for **year-round E15** sales to non-flex fuel vehicles.

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.

[NBB Asks Farm Bill Conferees to Support Biodiesel Programs](#)

(National Biodiesel Board) National Biodiesel Board sends letter reiterating support for passage of a new Farm Bill — Today (August 16, 2018), the National Biodiesel Board sent a letter to leaders of the Farm Bill Conference Committee, reiterating the industry's strong support for passage of a new five-year Farm Bill (Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018)

[Trump's Plan to Boost Ethanol Could Quickly Get Sidelined](#)

by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) ... On top of that, a senior Senate aide close to the pro-ethanol camp led by Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said “there is debate” over whether it will take legislation to enact the changes Trump seeks. “We view it as a technical correction,” the aide...

[Iowans Tell EPA Chief President Made E15 Promise, It's Time to Deliver](#)

by O. Kay Henderson (Radiolowa) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's acting administrator met privately with Iowa commodity group leaders at the Iowa State Fair today — but Andrew Wheeler told reporters afterwards there is no decision yet on regulations that would allow a higher blend of ethanol to be sold year-round.

[Trump Admin Sees Grim Climate Outcome in Car Rule](#)

by Zack Colman and Scott Waldman (E&E News) The last time carbon dioxide levels hit the mark the Trump administration envisions for the end of the century, crocodiles roamed the poles and palm trees existed where glaciers are today. In fact, there were no glaciers — not even in Antarctica. Although the...

[Why Hasn't the US Put a Price on Carbon Yet?](#)

by Hugh C. Welsh (Real Clear Energy) It's time to rethink how our country approaches carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the use of fossil fuels. Right now, we know that the release of CO₂ damages the environment but emitters bear none of the cost. American tax payers, meanwhile, are subsidizing these

[Leahy among Lawmakers Taking Farm Bill to Conference](#)

(WCAX) Both houses of Congress have passed their respective versions of the Farm Bill, a massive piece of legislation that affects farmers around the country.

Now, a bipartisan group of lawmakers, including Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, will try to come together to pass one version of the bill. Farm bill negotiations ...

[House Moves forward on Ethanol Reform, but No Bill Yet](#)

by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) The House Energy and Commerce Committee is on course to create legislation to develop a national biofuel program that places consumers first, said Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon, the Republican chairman of the committee, on Wednesday. The committee's environment panel held its fifth hearing Wednesday on

[More Support for Carbon Utilization in Congress](#)

(Algae Biomass Organization) This month the momentum for supporting technologies that put carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to good use got a boost in Congress with the introduction of the bipartisan Carbon Utilization Act of 2018. The House bill would support utilization technologies, such as algae cultivation, by allowing them ...

[Bioenergy \(Biofuels/Biomass\) RFS Roundup: To Grow Cellulosic Fuel Volumes, Address Low Hanging Fruit in RFS Changes](#)

by Jessie Stolark (Energy and Environmental Study Institute) On Wednesday July 25, the House Energy & Commerce Committee held a hearing to educate members on the complexities of the compliance markets for biofuels, as Environment and Economy Subcommittee Rep. Shimkus (R-IL), chair, explores reforming the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Shimkus (R-IL)

[New Bill Introduced Recognizes Benefits of Natural Gas for Vehicles](#)

(VNG/NGVAmerica/NGV Journal) On July 23, U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Marietta) introduced HR-6476 the Light-Duty Natural Gas Vehicle Parity Act of 2018 in the US House of Representatives, a companion to Senate bill 3226 introduced by Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) on July 17 in the US Senate. This initiative affirms congressional intent ...

[Shuster Infrastructure Draft Boosts Gas Tax in Short Term](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) House Transportation Chairman Bill Shuster released his long-awaited infrastructure discussion draft on Monday. The Pennsylvania Republican proposes a short-term boost to the gasoline tax before ending the tax in a decade, as Pro Transportation's Lauren Gardner reports. The effort would boost taxes on gasoline

[United Front ... Octane Is Important](#)

by Tim Albrecht (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Experts in multiple industries support the idea of a high-octane fuel standard, but some prefer it as a replacement to the RFS. — Octane is important. The ethanol industry knows this, the automakers know it and even the oil industry understands it. But when it comes

[Emissions, Energy, and Economic Implications of the Curbelo Carbon Tax Proposal](#)

(Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy) In July 2018

Representative Carlos Curbelo proposed legislation that would put a price on US carbon dioxide emissions ("Curbelo proposal"). A carbon price is widely viewed as a necessary part of a cost-effective national strategy to address the risks of climate change. This proposal ...

[Carbon Taxes Would Drive GHG Emissions Reductions with Minimal Impact on U.S. Economy, Oil and Gas Production](#)

(Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy) A series of four reports released today by Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy and partners assesses the economic, energy, and environmental implications of federal carbon taxes. The reports analyze various carbon tax legislation scenarios, finding that carbon taxes would increase government revenue ...

[House Votes to Denounce Carbon Taxes. Where Was the Climate Solutions Caucus?](#)

by Marianne Lavelle (Inside Climate News) Only 4 of the 43 Republicans who claim membership in the Climate Solutions Caucus voted against the resolution. All were early members of the group. The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday passed a resolution denouncing the idea of a U.S. carbon tax as detrimental

[All Eyes on Carbon Tax Vote](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) **CARBON COPY:** Today's largely symbolic vote on an anti-carbon tax resolution could offer Republicans helpful campaign-trail fodder against Democrats — but it comes with a price tag for some of the House's most endangered moderates. Pro's Anthony Adragna reports this morning on the dilemma facing

[White House 'Concerned' that House Bill Doesn't Cut EPA Funding Enough](#)

by Niv Elis (The Hill) The White House is expressing concerns that a funding bill set for a vote Thursday in the House does not make deep enough cuts for agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The House is debating a package of two spending bills, one for Financial ...

Latest on Federal Regulation



The "**small refinery**" waivers, **CAFE** (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) **mid-term review** issues and challenges to **California's** authority to set vehicle pollution control standards remain in the spotlight. And the **E15 RVP** waiver remains unresolved.

Trade barriers and **tariffs** and a **\$12 Billion** aid package to alleviate resulting suffering in the agricultural sector received plenty of attention this month, too, with a common refrain that farmers would prefer enhanced trade to payoffs or handouts.

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

[NBB Shows Higher 2020 Biodiesel Volumes Are Achievable in Comments on Annual RFS Rule](#)

(National Biodiesel Board) NBB also proposes multiple solutions to accounting for small refinery exempted volumes — Today, the National Biodiesel Board filed comments on the proposed Renewable Fuel Standards for 2019 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2020. NBB's comments respectfully urge the Environmental Protection Agency in the final rule to increase the [Read Full Article](#)

[King Says Farmers Want EPA Action on Ethanol, not \\$12 Billion Aide Package](#)

by O. Kay Henderson (Radiolowa) Republican Congressman Steve King today said the best thing the Trump Administration could do to alleviate farmers' angst about the trade war would be to allow higher percentages of ethanol to be blended into gasoline year-round. "Let the market determine what that blend could be It could [Read Full Article](#)

[Earnings Season: as Novozymes, DSM, Amyris, Gevo, Corbion, and Aemetis Report, Who's up, Who's down?](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In today's Digest, let's look at trends driving the industry's results at scale — and while money is not the measure of all progress, it

is the ultimate yardstick and especially for companies that have reached industrial scale. So, let's look at Q2 earnings statements now [Read Full Article](#)

[How Progressives Can Reconnect with Rural Voters](#)

by Patty Judge (Des Moines Register/Focus on Rural America) ... Many of the political elites on the coasts have argued that progressives should simply write off the rural Midwest because it is too white, too old and too conservative to ever support a progressive national candidate. In 2017 Focus on Rural [Read Full Article](#)

[Has Ethanol Hit Its Peak?](#)

by James Osborne (Houston Chronicle) More than 15 billion gallons of ethanol flows into the U.S. fuel supply each year, big business for midwestern corn farms and a drag on oil refineries in Texas. But with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency now exempting smaller refineries from the federal mandate they blend [Read Full Article](#)

[Uncovering the Plot to Keep Ethanol Down — How Clean Burning Ethanol Can Make Rural America Great Again](#)

(Urban Air Institute) A paradigm shift is needed in Washington, and it's up to Rural America to push for change. "We need to join together and demand access to cleaner burning ethanol, which will help American farmers and improve the air our entire nation breathes," according to Urban Air President Dave VanderGriend. [Read Full Article](#)

[Grassley Gets Local Perspective on Ag](#)

by Seth Boyes (Dickinson County News) Steffes Company in Milford played host to U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley on Monday Aug. 6. ... “If you’re a member of Congress, you can’t keep your mouth shut if you think the president’s hurting your people,” he said. He went on to say the president seemed [Read Full Article](#)

[Pacific Ethanol Discusses Impact of Trade Barriers, EPA Actions](#)

by Erin Voegelé (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Pacific Ethanol Inc. released second quarter financial results on Aug. 9, reporting a slight increase in net sales. The company also discussed how current trade barriers and the U.S. EPA’s administration of the Renewable Fuel Standard are reducing short-term demand for ethanol. “Even with [Read Full Article](#)

[Iowans Tell EPA Chief President Made E15 Promise, It’s Time to Deliver](#)

by O. Kay Henderson (Radiolowa) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s acting administrator met privately with Iowa commodity group leaders at the Iowa State Fair today — but Andrew Wheeler told reporters afterwards there is no decision yet on regulations that would allow a higher blend of ethanol to be sold year-round. [Read Full Article](#)

[Ad Wars](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) The Renewable Fuels Association launched a weeklong ad campaign in Iowa on Monday, coinciding with Wheeler's visit to the state's annual fair. The ads hit EPA on the Renewable Fuel Standard and push the agency to institute year-round sales of E15 blends. The ads [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA's RFS Study Timeline](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) EPA wants 14 months to finish up an air quality study of the Renewable Fuel Standard, saying in a court filing Monday that the timeline "is the most expeditious one for the agency to complete the anti-backsliding study." The study could ultimately lead to [Read Full Article](#)

[Mr. President, Don't Support Any 'Deal' That Undermines the RFS](#)

by Donnell Rehagen (National Biodiesel Board/Real Clear Energy) ... The ethanol industry wants EPA to remove a regulatory barrier to higher ethanol blends. In exchange, the refining industry wants to sunset the Renewable Fuel Standard. Late in July, President Trump announced in Iowa that he was "very close ... to pulling off" the ethanol industry's [Read Full Article](#)

[Hubbell Wants More Support for Farmers Hurt by Trade War](#)

by Rod Boshart (Sioux City Journal) Democratic gubernatorial candidate Fred Hubbell called out Gov. Kim Reynolds Saturday for not taking a more-aggressive public stance on behalf of Iowa farmers and rural interests being hurt by President

Trump's trade war with China rather than "towing the party line" in the trade dispute.[Read Full Article](#)

[Farmers Crowd in to Hear Minnesota Governor Candidates](#)

by Don Davis (Forum News Service/Fairbault Daily News) Minnesota's five major governor candidates bent over backwards to show they are on farmers' side during the first forum with them all. ... Farmers and agri-business people were eager to hear what they had to say, with all 1,000 seats filled and another [Read Full Article](#)

[Frustration Brews in the Ethanol Industry](#)

by Dan Looker (Successful Farming) Lawsuits and EPA petitions are in the works. — ... "I would say the status quo right now is unacceptable for the industry," says Emily Skor, CEO of Growth Energy. "If he's (President Donald Trump) supportive of year-round E15, let's do it. Let's see it." These [Read Full Article](#)

[Stink, Swine, and Nuisance: The North Carolina Hog Industry and Its Waste Management Woes](#)

by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) ... Biogas – Turning Hog Waste into Resources — Biogas technologies turn organic wastes, including manure, into energy and compost. When manure is turned into biogas, the smells, poor health effects, and methane emissions associated with hog farms are drastically reduced. At a [Read Full Article](#)

[California Drivers Pay Growing Cost for Climate Program](#)

by David R. Baker (San Francisco Chronicle) A California program to fight climate change may now add more to the cost of gasoline than the state gas-tax increase that many voters want to repeal. The Low Carbon Fuel Standard, designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions from fuel, now adds 12 to 14 cents per [Read Full Article](#)

[On the Rise: The Digest's 2018 Multi-Slide Guide to Biogas, Its Markets and Production and Treatment Technologies](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) What's up with biogas? The U.S. market has lagged in the development of biogas facilities because of the low cost of electricity, natural gas and vehicle fuels derived from petroleum. The passing of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 [Read Full Article](#)

[Oil's Relentless Price Climb Brings Advanced Biofuels Back in Vogue](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) For several years now we have seen a significant number of players pivoting from biofuels towards smaller but higher-value markets in chemicals, nutrition, nutraceuticals, pharma, materials, flavorings, fragrances, cosmetics and more. We've reported on the proliferation of applications both in the Digest and in What's Nuu? and [Read Full Article](#)

[To Kill Climate Rule, EPA Wants to Redefine Danger of Soot](#)

by Niina Heikkinen (E&E News) Whether it's in haze-shrouded cities, plumes of car exhaust or even clear skies, fine particle pollution can be found just about

everywhere in the United States. ... Exposure to fine particles is linked to premature death and higher risks of asthma and heart attacks. After decades of [Read Full Article](#)

[California Schemin'](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) The Trump administration's proposed freeze of vehicle fuel efficiency standards sought by the Obama administration and plan to end California's power to enforce its own rules has placed the spotlight squarely on the state, where its political leaders are vowing an all-out fight . California [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Opens Door to Conversation about High Octane Fuels](#)

(Urban Air Initiative) After being one of the first to embrace and encourage high octane fuels as a solution for reducing emissions and improving air quality, the Urban Air Initiative is relieved to finally see octane included in the latest EPA discussion about fuel economy standards. For the CAFE/GHG standards, the Environmental Protection Agency's [Read Full Article](#)

[Unwinding the Perverse Arithmetic of Scott Pruitt's Small Refinery Exemptions to the RFS](#)

by Jeremy Martin (Union of Concerned Scientists/Biofuels Digest) ... Here, we untangle the opaque way (former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott) Pruitt rigged the system for his fossil fuel friends and what this means for the

ongoing RFS rulemaking. Pruitt pulling strings for polluters Last year Pruitt, acting on behalf of [Read Full Article](#)

[RFA: EPA Is Working on an E15 Rule](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Bob Dinneen, the outgoing CEO of the Renewable Fuels Association, told reporters Wednesday that he thinks EPA staff is working on a rule to allow year-round sales of 15 percent ethanol fuel, despite what Wheeler told Senate EPW earlier in the day. "We can [Read Full Article](#)

[RFA Welcomes Inclusion of High Octane Fuels in 2021-2026 CAFE/GHG Proposal](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) today welcomed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) request for public comments on how high octane fuels could facilitate engine efficiency improvements and reduced emissions under 2021-2026 fuel economy and tailpipe GHG standards for light-duty automobiles (CAFE/GHG). The solicitation for comments on high [Read Full Article](#)

[Trump Administration to Freeze Fuel Efficiency Requirements](#)

by Brady Dennis, Michael Laris and Juliet Eilperin (The Washington Post) The Trump administration on Thursday announced plans to freeze fuel efficiency requirements for the nation's cars and trucks through 2026 — a massive regulatory rollback likely to spur a legal battle with California and other states, as well as create potential upheaval in the [Read Full Article](#)

[Bioenergy \(Biofuels/Biomass\) RFS Roundup: To Grow Cellulosic Fuel Volumes, Address Low Hanging Fruit in RFS Changes](#)

by Jessie Stolark (Energy and Environmental Study Institute) On Wednesday July 25, the House Energy & Commerce Committee held a hearing to educate members on the complexities of the compliance markets for biofuels, as Environment and Economy Subcommittee Rep. Shimkus (R-IL), chair, explores reforming the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Shimkus (R-IL) [Read Full Article](#)

[Daily on Energy: Democrats 'Pleased' to Hear from Trump's New EPA Pick: EPA'S Wheeler Promises '50-State Solution' for New Auto Rules](#)

by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler confirmed to senators Wednesday that the Trump administration this week will release a proposal to weaken Obama-era fuel efficiency standards. Wheeler, in his first testimony before Congress since replacing Scott Pruitt, said he hopes to come up with a “50-state [Read Full Article](#)

[Time for EPA to Clean up the Mess It Made of the RFS](#)

by Timothy J. Rudnicki (Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) ... Let's be clear here. There are legitimate complaints from the biofuel industry because (acting Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew) Wheeler's predecessor turned over the agency to Big Oil. How else can you explain the 2.25 billion gallons of ethanol that were lost via [Read Full Article](#)

[USDA Provides Aid for Farmers, Biofuel Groups Call for RVP Relief](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The USDA has announced it will authorize up to \$12 billion in aid to assist farmers who have been impacted by retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods. The ethanol industry also called on the Trump administration to provide Reid vapor pressure (RVP) relief for E15 [Read Full Article](#)

[House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on RINs](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On July 25, the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing that aimed to educate members of the subcommittee on renewable identification numbers (RINs) and the role RINs play in the Renewable Fuel Standard. In his opening statement, Subcommittee [Read Full Article](#)

[Trump Says Very Close to 12-Month Waiver for Ethanol in Gasoline](#)

by Roberta Rampton and Lisa Lambert (Reuters) President Donald Trump on Thursday said his administration is very close to granting a waiver that would allow the sale of gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol year-round. "I'm very close, I have to tell you, to pulling off something you have been looking forward to [Read Full Article](#)

[Higher Blends of Ethanol Should Be Available Year-Round](#)

by Anthony Bush (Marion Star) ... Most urgently, (Agriculture) Secretary (Sonny) Perdue must follow the president's directive to work with the Environmental Protection Agency to end harmful sales regulations on higher ethanol blends like E15 and above. These regulations restrict the sale of higher blends during the summer months when travel [Read Full Article](#)

[Inside the Draft Auto Rule Rollback](#)

by Alex Guillén (Politico's Morning Energy) The Trump administration is expected to formally roll back vehicle fuel economy and emissions requirements later this week, and a draft version of the EPA-NHTSA rule posted Friday evening by The New York Times offers up details that confirm the many of the changes previously [Read Full Article](#)

[Extra Administration Analysis Delays Fuel Economy Rules](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Fuel economy rules from EPA and the Department of Transportation that were widely expected this week will be delayed, as the feds are adding analysis to give them better odds of surviving an inevitable court challenge, sources familiar with the discussions told ME. The [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Hasn't Told the Whole Story of the Benefits of Biofuels](#)

by Byron Dorgan (Arent Fox LLP/National Biodiesel Board/The Hill) ... A recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report released to Congress on the environmental and resource conservation impacts of biofuel production deliberately

misses the mark because of what it excludes. The EPA authors note that their report excludes any consideration of biofuels' reductions of greenhouse [Read Full Article](#)

[Fischer Joins Acting EPA Administrator to Announce Approved Fuel Pathway for Sorghum Oil](#)

(Office of Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)) U.S. Senator Deb Fischer, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, issued the following statement today after participating in an event at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to announce an approved fuel pathway for grain sorghum under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS): "More and more [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Issues Notice of Data Availability on Grain Sorghum](#)

(National Sorghum Producers) On May 25, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice of data availability (NODA) concerning renewable fuels produced from grain sorghum under the RFS program. EPA's analysis shows grain sorghum, when used to make ethanol at facilities that use natural gas, has a greenhouse gas [Read Full Article](#)

[With Friends Like This... . . . EPA's Proposed Renewable Enhancement and Growth Support Rule](#)

by Doug Sombke (Ethanol Producer Magazine/South Dakota Farmers Union) South Dakota Farmers Union President Doug Sombke discusses how the EPA's proposed Renewable Enhancement and Growth Support rule would hurt

both the ethanol and agriculture industries — ... There is no precedent for the anti-ethanol, pro-oil actions of a federal agency like we are [Read Full Article](#)

[Ethanol Industry, Aurora Co-Op Continue to Expand in Nebraska](#)

by Robert Pore (Kearney Hub) ... Aurora Cooperative is opening its new A-Stop 24 pump site just north of Grant on Highway 61. Friday's ceremony was attended by Gov. Pete Ricketts, area chamber members and Nebraska corn and ethanol board representatives. The A-Stop 24 will provide E10, E15, E30 and E85 [Read Full Article](#)

[Sen. Ernst Questions CEQ Nominee on RFS and Year-Round E15](#)

by AJ Taylor (KIOU) Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) stressed the importance of biofuels to rural communities and the need to uphold the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) during a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on the nomination of Mary Bridget Neumayr to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality [Read Full Article](#)

[When Does Environmental Regulation Stimulate Technological Innovation?](#)

by David M. Hart (Information Technology and Innovation Foundation) There's no magic bullet to ensure firms will respond to environmental regulation by innovating. But a literature review shows certain conditions that will raise that likelihood, pointing the way to some important rules of thumb for policymakers. ... My review of a [Read Full Article](#)

[House Energy Committee Hearing on Renewable Fuel Standard RINs — July 25, 2018 — Washington, DC](#)

9:15 a.m. 2322 Rayburn House Office Building. Washington, DC 20515 — The House Energy & Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hearing entitled "Background on Renewable Identification Numbers under the Renewable Fuel Standard." The hearing webcast will be available at

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/>.

<https://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings/background-on-renewable-identification-numbers-under-the-renewable-fuel-standard> READ MORE ON TAP THIS WEEK:

(Politico's Morning Energy) [Read Full Article](#)

[Help Or Hinder? Federal Agencies At Odds Over Biofuels](#)

by Madelyn Beck (Harvest Public Media/KUNC) ... That's because for the last few years, the EPA and the Department of Energy have been at odds, with taxpayer money creating a new biofuel industry that may not have the room to grow outside the lab. ... The Department of Energy spent hundreds [Read Full Article](#)

[Report: Clean Car Rules Coming Soon](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Mark your calendars, readers. An EPA official told E&E News that the Trump administration will propose its plans for weakening Obama-era clean car standards next week. The plan will provide several options for public comment, but will stop short of revoking states' ability to set [Read Full Article](#)

[Low-Carbon Jet Fuel and Diesel, at Scale: The Digest 2018 Multi-Slide Guide to AltAir Fuels](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Established in 2013, AltAir Fuels was created to produce low carbon fuels and chemicals derived from sustainable feedstock. For its first commercial project, AltAir partnered with Alon Energy USA to use its existing refinery in Paramount, California retooling idled refining equipment to increase the nation's energy [Read Full Article](#)

[Did Trump's Renewable Fuels Policy Really Cost Corn Growers \\$3.65 Billion in 2017?](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, new evidence has appeared that a Trump Administration shift on US low carbon fuel policy may have cost US corn growers an estimated \$3.65 billion. The mechanism? A secretive effort by Administration officials installed at the US Environmental Protection Agency that destroyed an estimated [Read Full Article](#)

[Heard on the Floor at the BIO World Congress: Dinneen Steps Down at RFA, Cooper Succeeds; EPA Hearings in DC; Organic Solar Cells; Lygos rockin'; Biomaterials Advance; Iffy News for Algae Tech.](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... News spread like wildfire at the 2018 BIO World Congress in Philadelphia that Renewable Fuels Association CEO Bob Dinneen will transition into the role of RFA's Senior Strategic Advisor, and Executive Vice

President Geoff Cooper will assume the position of President and CEO in October [Read Full Article](#)

Latest in Federal Litigation



Litigation concerns complaints about **waivers** from **RINs** obligations granted to oil refineries and from **California** in response to the **White House CAFE** standards review. A fraud case comes out of Colorado.

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

[EPA's RFS Study Timeline](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) EPA wants 14 months to finish up an air quality study of the Renewable Fuel Standard, saying in a court filing Monday that the timeline "is the most expeditious one for the agency to complete the anti-backsliding study." The study could ultimately lead to [Read Full Article](#)

[Colorado Business Owner Pleads Guilty to \\$7 Million Biodiesel Tax Credit Fraud Scheme](#)

(U.S. Department of Justice) A Colorado business owner pleaded guilty today to conspiracy to impair and impede the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for his role in

a \$7.2 million renewable fuel tax credit scheme, announced Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard E. Zuckerman of the Justice Department's Tax Division. According to [Read Full Article](#)

[NBB Files Opening Brief Challenging 2018 Renewable Fuel Standards](#)

(National Biodiesel Board) NBB brief is the first to challenge EPA's accounting for small refinery "hardship" exemptions in the annual RFS volumes — On Friday July 27, 2018, the National Biodiesel Board filed an opening brief in its lawsuit objecting to EPA's methodology for establishing the 2018 Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS). NBB [Read Full Article](#)

[Court to Hear RFS Refinery Waivers Case](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Appeals Court to Hear Whether EPA Followed Law Prior to Granting Exemptions — The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver will hear a Renewable Fuels Standard lawsuit challenging EPA's issuance of small refinery waivers, after the court ruled on Friday it is the proper [Read Full Article](#)

[Judge Throws out New York City's Climate Change Lawsuit against 5 Major Oil Companies](#)

by Tom DiChristopher (CNBC) A federal judge dismissed New York's lawsuit against five big oil and gas companies for their role in climate change. New York argued the companies should compensate the city for the cost of mitigating the

effects of global warming. U.S. District Court Judge John F. Keenan ruled that problems associated [Read Full Article](#)

[U.S. Court of Appeals Rules in Ergon – West Virginia’s Favor in RFS Claim Against EPA](#)

(Ergon – West Virginia, Inc./Business Wire) Ergon – West Virginia, Inc., Wrongfully Denied Small Refinery Hardship Relief — The United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit has vacated and remanded the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) denial of a 2016 petition for small refinery hardship filed by [Read Full Article](#)

Advanced Biofuels USA News

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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](#)

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.

AND, we have a special effort to publish an **easy-to-read summary of biofuels developments and issues**. If you would like to help, please give me a call at 301-644-1395 or send an email to info@AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org and I'll get you more information.

Thanks,

Joanne Ivancic, Executive Director

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