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2020 Election Action Underway

Watch our new category [2020 Election Activities](#) for Presidential campaigning, as well as House, Senate and local/regional election activities. As always, the category [White House](#) focuses on Presidential involvement with biofuels.

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



Some last-gasp legislation from the last days of the previous Congress; now with the new Congress seated, and the US federal government in an extensive shutdown, new legislation is slowly getting underway.

Collin Peterson (D-MN) is the new chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, returning to a former seat, and **Kathy Castor (D-FL)** will chair the new climate change committee. The [Green New Deal](#) is all the rage. [Carbon taxes](#) remain in the news. A bill that promotes [octane](#) is not trusted to lead to increased use of cleanest, cheapest octane from ethanol. Scroll down for details.

Find lists of related articles linked on the website posts.

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](#).

[What's in a Green New Deal?](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Environmental activists and progressives rallying around the "Green New Deal" are hoping to develop details for the plan that will help turn it into a policy platform for Democrats ahead of the 2020 election, Pro's Zack Colman reports this morning. That means one of ...

January 11, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Pelosi Says House to Revisit Climate Plan Based on 2009 Bill](#)

by Ari Natter and Anna Edgerton (Bloomberg) Bill with cap-and-trade plan passed House but died in Senate; Comments come as Democrats return climate change to agenda — The U.S. House will take up climate legislation, including a measure based on a bill the body approved last time Democrats were in the majority, said Speaker ... January 8, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Ag Policy Blog: Peterson Elected House Ag Chairman](#)

by Jerry Hagstrom (DTN The Progressive Farmer) House Democrats on Friday elected Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, a position Peterson held from 2007 to 2011 when his party last was in the majority in the House. Since 2011 Peterson has been the committee's ranking member. ... January 7, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Republicans Push 'Innovation' as Climate Change Solution](#)

by Timothy Cama (The Hill) GOP lawmakers are increasingly turning to a new refrain for their position on climate change, calling for "innovation" as the policy solution. Many Republicans have seemingly settled on innovation as their primary position to counter progressive Democrats who have grown louder in their calls for a Green ... January 7, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Alternative Fuels Council Offers Biodiesel Strategy](#)

by Jeff Hove (Biodiesel Magazine) Jeff Hove, vice president of NATSO's Alternative Fuels Council, provides perspective on current political, regulatory and market events relating to biodiesel blending, and how a myriad of potential changes will affect downstream operators. — ... But renewable identification number (RIN) value volatility—driven by political rumor, speculation and ... January 5, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Recognizing Today's Reality to Shape a Better Tomorrow](#)

by Brian Jennings (American Coalition for Ethanol/Ethanol Producer Magazine) Looking back to one year ago, ethanol renewable identification numbers (RINs) were fetching nearly 70 cents (a valuable incentive for ethanol blending), exports were swelling to record volumes, and EPA was promising to consider granting Reid vapor pressure (RVP) relief for E15. ... January 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Pelosi Names Castor Chair of Select Committee on Climate Crisis](#)

by Chris Mills Rodrigo (The Hill) House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) officially named Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) as chairwoman of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis on Friday. ... Progressives have pushed back on House leadership's plans for the panel. The panel will not be tasked specifically with formulating a Green New Deal, which includes a ... December 31, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[Mid-Level Ethanol Blends Are the Transportation Fuel of the 21st Century, NFU Says](#)

(National Farmers Union) As Congress looks to revamp and coordinate federal-level policies that govern the transportation fuels and vehicles sectors, National Farmers Union (NFU) is urging legislators to expand use of high-octane, mid-level blends of ethanol in the transportation fuel supply. In doing so, policymakers have the opportunity to create lasting ... December 27, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[Congressionally-Proposed Octane Standard Would Decrease Biofuels Use, Increase Greenhouse Gases](#)

by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) The 21st Century Transportation Fuels Act, sponsored by outgoing House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee Chair Shimkus (R-IL), would phase out portions of the Renewable Fuel Standard, replacing it with an octane standard by 2022. As lawmakers have grappled with the competing interests of ... December 23, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[Climate Change Committee in Congress to Be Led by Tampa Rep. Kathy Castor?](#)

by Steve Contorno (Tampa Bay Times) If Democrats bring back the committee, Castor is in line to lead the House panel devoted to addressing one of the greatest environmental threats to Florida. ... U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor is likely to chair the climate change committee if it materializes, giving the region a powerful ... December 21, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[COP24, 2018 Farm Bill Give Agriculture a Voice, Climate Smart Tools](#)

(Solutions from the Land) As 2018 closes out, advocates for the role agriculture can play in facing a changing climate can feel encouraged by developments on the

international and domestic stages. Global climate negotiators in Katowice, Poland, came to a final agreement late last week on steps aimed at ensuring a ...December 20, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[Senate Bill Seeks To Transition U.S. To 100 Percent Zero-Emission Vehicles:](#)

(Bergeson & Campbell's Clients and Friends Memorandum) On November 28, 2018, Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), both senior members of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, introduced legislation that would put the U.S. on the path to achieving 100 percent zero-emission vehicles (ZEV). The Zero-Emission Vehicles ... December 19, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[Exclusive: Oil Giant ConocoPhillips Backs Carbon Tax Push](#)

by Amy Harder (Axios) In the latest sign of a global oil industry shifting on climate change, ConocoPhillips is now helping fund a multi-million dollar political advocacy campaign that's lobbying Congress for a tax on carbon emissions. Why it matters: The move aligns the world's largest independent oil and gas producer ... December 18, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[Opinions: Why the Time Has Come for a Green New Deal](#)

by Katrina vanden Heuvel (Washington Post) Almost 20 years ago, writer Mark Hertsgaard suggested a bold idea to upend the climate debate. Arguing that ambitious climate action was politically impossible without simultaneously meeting people's economic needs, he proposed a massive public works program to "retrofit

everything from our farms to our factories” that would be “a ... December 18, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

Latest on Federal Regulation



Concerns that EPA's delay in publishing proposed [E15 Reid Vapor Pressure regulations](#) will preclude E15 waiver certainty for 2019 summer driving are compounded by the effects of the federal government shutdown. [Small refinery exemptions](#) still causing heart burn. In other RFS news, [eRINs](#) are gaining attention. Ethanol remains a victim of the continuing [trade dispute](#) with China. And more.

See also articles in Litigation below for overlapping topics.

[EPA Says It Is Committed to Rule for Higher Ethanol Blend by Summer Driving Season](#)

by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Tuesday it would complete a rule to boost sales of higher-ethanol blends of gasoline by the summer driving season, despite a partial government shutdown. The statement from the environmental regulator came after the agency warned at least two ... January 9, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Forecast for U.S. Federal and International Chemical Regulatory Policy 2019](#)

(Bergeson & Campbell) Bergeson & Campbell, P.C. (B&C®) and its consulting affiliate The Acta Group (Acta®) are pleased to offer you our Forecast 2019. In this

richly detailed document, the legal, scientific, and regulatory professionals of B&C and Acta distill key trends in U.S. and global chemical law and provide our ... January 9, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[A Rightful Role in the RFS: The Electric Vehicle Market Is Predicted to Soar, and, Pending Overdue Action by the U.S. EPA, Biomass Power Producers Are Positioned to Help Meet Goals Set Forth in the Renewable Fuel Standard.](#)

by Anna Simet (Biomass Magazine) ... The vast complexities of the RFS extend far beyond these components, but a much lesser-known provision is beginning to attract attention—the role of renewable electricity in the program, and it’s abilities to fuel electric vehicles (EVs). This provision is one that was embedded in ... January 8, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[The Problem of Invalidated RINs in the Renewable Fuel Standard](#)

by Mike Newman (Parhelion Underwriting/Stillwater Associates) Under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) imposed a “buyer beware” approach to the purchase and sale of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs). This creates a liability for any buyer of RINs, making them responsible for purchases of invalid RINS, even if done ... January 7, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Alternative Fuels Council Offers Biodiesel Strategy](#)

by Jeff Hove (Biodiesel Magazine) Jeff Hove, vice president of NATSO’s Alternative Fuels Council, provides perspective on current political, regulatory and

market events relating to biodiesel blending, and how a myriad of potential changes will affect downstream operators. — ... But renewable identification number (RIN) value volatility—driven by political rumor, speculation and ... January 5, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Biodiesel's Cutting Edge](#)

by Ron Kotrba (Biodiesel Magazine) Biodiesel Magazine profiles nine companies whose process technologies, products and services are on the frontline of change in this industry. Third Coast Commodities Biodiesel feedstock trading is evolving, and Third Coast Commodities is one of the firms ushering in this change. ... The only way to ... January 4, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Ricketts: My Goals for 2-19](#)

by Pete Ricketts (Office of Governor of Nebraska/Star Herald) As we enter the new year, I have put together a list of goals for our state in 2019. I am sharing a few of them here. ... Year-Round E15 – In October, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and I joined President Trump in ... January 4, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[A Fox Guarding the RFS Henhouse](#)

by David Kruse (The CommStock Report/Spencer Daily Reporter) From a subscriber: "I asked my local Cenex manager why the price of E85 was still high. E10 has dropped 43 cents in the last couple of months and E85 hasn't changed

from \$1.94. He told me that the RIN price has often been close ... January 4, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Farmers Fear Another Hit as Trump Shutdown Threatens Ethanol Vow](#)

by Mario Parker and Jennifer A Dlouhy (Bloomberg) Year-round 15% ethanol-gas blend by summer now seen at risk; Shutdown could join trade war in limiting farmer income — ... The government shutdown that Trump says could last “a long time” without funding for a border wall may hurt farmers by delaying the administration’s ... January 4, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Outlook 2019: RINs Market Looks toward Washington in 2019](#)

by Wesley Swift (S&P Global Platts) The market for Renewable Identification Numbers looked for relief in 2019 after a tumultuous 2018. Uncertainty over the nation’s renewable fuel policy created a volatile market for RINs, the credits used by refiners and fossil fuel importers to prove compliance with federal renewable fuel blending ... January 3, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Your Views: Q&A on E15 Fuel Had Misinformation](#)

by Geoff Cooper (Renewable Fuels Association/The Gazette) Rather than providing factual answers to common questions about Unleaded88 gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol (E15), The Gazette’s recent Q&A on the fuel (Page 6A, Monday) perpetuated familiar myths and misinformation about ethanol. After

conducting the most extensive fuel testing program in history, the ... January 3, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Recognizing Today's Reality to Shape a Better Tomorrow](#)

by Brian Jennings (American Coalition for Ethanol/Ethanol Producer Magazine) Looking back to one year ago, ethanol renewable identification numbers (RINs) were fetching nearly 70 cents (a valuable incentive for ethanol blending), exports were swelling to record volumes, and EPA was promising to consider granting Reid vapor pressure (RVP) relief for E15. ... January 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Driving Opportunities to Expand the Market](#)

by Emily Skor (Growth Energy/Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... We expect a proposed rule in February, followed by a public hearing and comment process. President Donald Trump's administration has clearly stated its intention to have a rule in place by June 1—when the 2019 summer driving season begins. Our opponents will try ... January 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Ethanol's Impact: Iowa's Status as the Largest Ethanol-Producing State Means Its Ethanol Economy Affects the Entire Industry.](#)

by Matt Thompson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... A waiter in a Cedar Rapids restaurant, for instance, recently asked Shaw (Monte Shaw, executive director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association) about Trump's E15 waiver, upon hearing

that Shaw advocates for biofuels and ethanol through the IRFA. “So here’s a waiter in the ... January 2, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA: 8 New Small Refinery Waivers Filed](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On Dec. 20, the U.S. EPA released updated data on small refinery hardship waivers filed under the Renewable Fuel Standard, reporting that seven new waivers for the 2018 compliance year and one new petition for the 2017 compliance year were filed between Nov. 10 and ... December 26, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[RNG Poised for Midwestern Growth](#)

by Sam Spofforth (Clean Fuels Ohio/ACT News) The natural gas vehicle (NGV) industry and seasoned fleet users are quite familiar with the growth of renewable natural gas (RNG) in the transportation sector. This growth has been driven by a combination of the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) and the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). ... December 21, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[On Eleventh Anniversary, RFS2 ‘Has Unquestionably Lived Up to Its Promise’](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) Eleven years ago today, President George W. Bush signed into law what has become the single most successful clean fuels policy in the United States—the expanded Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2). The RFS2, included in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, requires petroleum refiners and importers to ... December 19, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Sets 2019 Cellulosic Waiver Credit Price at \\$1.77](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The U.S. EPA has published a notice on its website setting the cellulosic waiver credit (CWC) price for 2019 at \$1.77. The price is slightly lower than the CWC price for 2018, which was set at \$1.96 in December 2017. Under the Renewable Fuel Standard ... December 18, 2018 [Read Full Article](#)

Open for Public Comment

[Proposed Changes to EIA-819 Monthly Biofuels, Fuel Oxygenates, and Motor Gasoline Blending Components Report COMMENT DEADLINE: February 25, 2019](#)

(U.S. Department of Energy) On December 27, 2018, a Federal Register Notice (FRN) was published announcing proposed survey changes to the Petroleum Supply Reporting System. These changes enhance collection and reporting of biofuels a number of ways: EIA-819 Monthly Oxygenate Report will be expanded to incorporate EIA-22M Monthly Biodiesel Production ...

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Latest in Federal Litigation



Litigation threats and actions relate to EPA's "[small refinery exemptions](#)", a legally defensible [RVP](#) rule and reallocation of the [waived gallons](#).

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

[Recognizing Today's Reality to Shape a Better Tomorrow](#)

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For example, a suggestion for taxing the non-renewable part of transportation fuels is [here](#).

Joanne: **If you read some of these articles and say to yourself, "That's really important!",** you understand the need for biofuels education. Biofuels is not an

easy topic to understand.

Reporters (and those 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.*

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Thanks,

Joanne Ivancic, Executive Director

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