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Requests for Comment on Federal Regulations. At your fingertips.

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Open for Public Comment

[Request for Nominations of Candidates to the EPA's Science Advisory Board \(SAB\) and SAB Standing Committees DEADLINE: August 8, 2018](#)

July 17, 2018 – (Environmental Protection Agency/Federal Register) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites nominations of scientific experts from a diverse range of disciplines to be considered for appointment to the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) and four SAB ...

[EPA Schedules Hearing on Proposed RFS Rule for July 18 COMMENT DEADLINE August 17, 2018](#)

July 3, 2018 – by Erin Voegle (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The U.S. EPA has announced it will hold a public hearing in Ypsilanti, Michigan, July 18 to gather public input on its proposed rule to set 2019 renewable volume obligations ...

[EPA Releases Proposed 2019 RFS RVOs, Fails to Address Waivers COMMENT](#)

[DEADLINE: August 17, 2018](#)

June 26, 2018 – by Erin Voegelé (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On June 26, the U.S. EPA released a proposed rule that aims to require 19.88 billion gallons of biofuels to be blended into the U.S. fuel supply in 2019, up ...

[Pruitt Unveils Controversial 'Transparency' Rule Limiting What Research EPA Can Use COMMENT](#)

[DEADLINE extended to August 16, 2018](#)

April 25, 2018 – by Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis (The Washington Post) Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt moved Tuesday to limit what science can be used in writing agency regulations, a change long sought by conservatives.

The proposed rule would ...

[*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



CJ Evans has written the prequel to "How a Bill Becomes a Law" with what might be called "**How an Idea Becomes a Bill.**" With lists of not just lobbying do's and don't's; but also including the story of the hard work and foundation-building that goes into the **legislative process.** How can constituents help legislators have a clue about what's going on? How can we help them make informed, reasoned choices?

The Farm Bill, particularly the **Energy Title**, biodiesel **tax credits**, and **carbon tax** ideas. round out the hot legislative topics of the month.

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.

[How to Win the Public Policy Debate, and the Annual Government Agency Funding Battles for the Bioeconomy](#)

July 16, 2018 – by Craig (CJ) Evans (American Diversified Energy Consulting Services/Lee Enterprises Consulting/Biofuels Digest) More than almost any other industry, financing for the bioeconomy is heavily influenced by and, in many cases, reliant on favorable public policies. Everyone involved in ...

[On Tap This Week: The Rules Committee](#)

July 16, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) The Rules

Committee will meet Tuesday to consider a resolution, H. Con. Res. 119 (115), that calls a carbon tax “detrimental” to the U.S. economy and “not in the ...

[Letter from Byzantium: Answers to Your Questions about Byzantine Biofuels Budgets and Policy Moves](#)

July 3, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... Yes, Virginia, there is cant, pettifoggery, self-dealing, obfuscation, and downright dirty pool when it comes to the deployment of biofuels, chemicals and advanced biomaterials — but there are also some ...

[Senate Overwhelmingly Passes Sweeping Farm Bill, Setting up Fight with House](#)

June 29, 2018 – by Caitlin Dewey and Erica Werner (Washington Post) The Senate passed its version of the \$428 billion farm bill Thursday, setting up a bitter fight against the House over food stamps, farm subsidies and conservation funding. The ...

[West Fargo Farm Rally Will Try to Capture Part of Trump’s Spotlight](#)

June 27, 2018 – by Patrick Springer (West Fargo Pioneer) ... “It’s not a protest against President Trump,” said Pam Musland, marketing and communication supervisor for the North Dakota Farmers Union. “Our hope is to grab some media attention with ...

[Producers, Marketers Unify in Support of Biodiesel Tax Credit](#)

June 26, 2018 – (National Biodiesel Board) Today (June 25, 2018), a diverse group of trade associations delivered a letter to Congressional leaders announcing a unified position to maintain and extend the current biodiesel blenders tax credit. In a letter to House ...

[Advanced Biofuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard: Current Status and Future Prospects](#)

June 22, 2018 – (U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment) ... A number of exogenous policies have greatly impacted advanced biofuels markets and RFS (Renewable Fuel Standards) compliance. These include trade restrictions and duties ...

[UPDATE 2-EPA to Propose Reallocating Waived Biofuels Volumes to Other Refiners-Sources](#)

June 21, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters/Successful Farming) The U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency will propose reallocating biofuel blending obligations waived under its small refinery exemption program to other refiners, in an announcement that could come as early as Friday, according to ...

[Oxy Considering Carbon Capture Project](#)

June 20, 2018 – by James Osborne (Houston Chronicle) The Houston oil company Occidental Petroleum is studying a carbon capture project to deliver carbon dioxide to its oil fields in West Texas, the company announced Tuesday.

Engineers are expected to spend ...

[New Conservative Group Lobbies for Carbon Tax](#)

June 20, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) A new group with a conservative backing has formed to push for a carbon tax. The Americans for Carbon Dividends is co-chaired by two former senators: John Breaux and ...

[Midwest Trump Voters Losing Faith in His Commitment to Biofuels](#)

June 18, 2018 – (National Biodiesel Board/Biodiesel Magazine) New polling shows that voters across three Midwestern states are disappointed with Trump

administration decisions they view as broken promises of support for local agriculture and renewable fuels industries.

In a survey of ...

Latest on Federal Regulation



It's Musical Chairs time in Washington, DC. With EPA's Scott Pruitt out and a new Supreme Court justice in the wings. And what will that mean for biofuels?

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.

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

[California Is Cutting Greenhouse Gases, but Not from Cars. Can That Change?](#)

July 17, 2018 – by David R. Baker (San Francisco Chronicle) ... Emissions from transportation — cars, trucks, trains, planes and ships — keep rising. And since transportation accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than any other sector, that must ...

[Prior to Take-off: The Digest's 2018 Multi-Slide Guide to Renewable Jet Fuels and Certification](#)

July 17, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Before renewable jet fuel production

comes renewable jet fuel certification. What is involved? FAA and CAAFI stalwart Mark Rumizen presented on the process, the steps, the milestones and more at ABLC 2018 ...

[A Plan to Reallocate Waived Biofuels](#)

July 16, 2018 – (Red River Farm Network) The ethanol industry will continue to pursue a fix for the damages brought on from EPA's issuing of small refinery waivers. Ahead of a public hearing Wednesday, Renewable Fuels Association Executive ...

[Grassley Not Happy with EPA RFS Reply](#)

July 16, 2018 – (The Hagstrom Report/The Fence Post) The Environmental Protection Agency finally replied to a letter that Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and 11 other senators sent in April inquiring about waivers to the Renewable ...

[Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association Releases 2018 Half Year Report](#)

July 12, 2018 – (Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) The Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association (MN Biofuels) released its 2018 Half Year Report to its producer and vendor members at a networking event in Prior Lake yesterday.

The report gave members an overview of Minnesota's ...

[EPA Scraps Detailed Plan to Force U.S. Refiners to Blend More Biofuels](#)

July 12, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ditched a detailed plan that would have forced refiners to blend more biofuels into their gasoline and diesel in 2019 to compensate for volumes likely to be ...

[Growth Energy: American Drivers Pass 5 Billion Miles on E15](#)

July 11, 2018 – (Growth Energy) Growth Energy announced today that American drivers have logged 5 billion miles on E15. The latest milestone was reached in the midst of Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) restrictions on the sale E15 fuel across ...

[California Regulator Sees ‘Window’ for Deal on Fuel Economy Rules](#)

July 10, 2018 – by David Shepardson (Reuters) California is ready to work with major automakers on revisions to greenhouse gas emission vehicle rules through 2025 and sees a “window” for a deal in the coming months, the state’s top ...

[The ‘Octane Olive Branch’ Is Full of Thorns](#)

July 9, 2018 –by Doug Durante (The Hill/Clean Fuels Development Coalition) With a final rule on fuel economy likely to come out in the near future, a considerable amount of attention has centered on higher octane fuels as a ...

[Pruitt Departure Allows for ‘Reset’ between Trump and Ethanol](#)

July 9, 2018 – by Mario Parker (Bloomberg) ... The EPA also jettisoned a plan to incorporate an additional 1.5 billion gallons of biofuel requirements in last week’s proposal to make up for the potential waivers granted to small refineries. ...

[Creative Debt and Equity: The Digest’s 2018 Multi-Slide Guide to Structures for Bioeconomy Project Finance](#)

July 9, 2018 –by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Bottom line, if you’re in the business of financing a renewable fuels project with a loan guarantee in the mix, you’re probably talking with some combination of New Energy Risk, Stern ...

[In a Q&A with The Washington Post on Friday, Wheeler Showed He Differs from Pruitt](#)

July 9, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico’s Morning Energy) In a Q&A with The Washington Post on Friday, (EPA Acting Administrator Scott) Wheeler showed

he differs from Pruitt in at least one major way. He said he considers an endangerment ...

[Scott Pruitt Steps down as EPA Head after Ethics, Management Scandals](#)

July 5, 2018 – by Brady Dennis and Juliet Eilperin (Washington Post) Scott Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general who relentlessly pursued President Trump's promises of deregulation at the Environmental Protection Agency, resigned Thursday after controversies over his lavish spending, ethical ...

[Ethanol Helps Fourth of July Travelers Declare Independence from High Gas Prices](#)

July 3, 2018 – by Rachel Gantz (Renewable Fuels Association) A record number of travelers will take to America's highways and byways this Fourth of July holiday, and ethanol will be lowering the price they pay for gasoline while ...

[Lawmakers Ask EPA to Approve RFS Pathway for Biomass Power](#)

June 29, 2018 – by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) A bipartisan delegation of California lawmakers are urging the U.S. EPA to resolve any issues that prevent biomass and waste-to-energy pathways from receiving the same level of support as other ...

[RFA Chief Knocks EPA Over Failure to Address Illegal Cut in 2016 RVO](#)

June 28, 2018 –by Jeff Barber (Opisnet) PA's failure to include in its proposed 2019 Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) an estimated 500 million gal of renewable fuels that a federal appeals court last year said the agency illegally excluded ...

[Grassley Statement on EPA's Proposed 2019 RFS Biofuels Levels](#)

June 28, 2018 – (Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)) ... "As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I also have concerns that EPA may be ignoring or abusing the Administrative Procedure Act as they continue to grant waivers in ...

[“To-mah-toe, To-may-toe...”: Consequences of Valorizing Biobased Carbon over Biobased Matter](#)

June 28, 2018 – by Michael A. Fatigati (Biofuels Digest) ... We now find it necessary to throttle back our drawdown of the fossil carbon account to preserve our climate and through reasoned and sensible policies and regulation moving us towards ...

[Octane Overconfidence](#)

June 27, 2018 – by Ron Lamberty (American Coalition for Ethanol/Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... (W)hy oil refiners wouldn't use ethanol as a source of octane, under a high-octane fuel standard, without an RFS or RINs. — ... Ethanol is ...

[Zero to 10 Million in 5 years](#)

June 27, 2018 – by Susanne Retka Schill (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Slow to start and with fewer gallons than targeted through the Renewable Fuel Standard, cellulosic ethanol is showing signs of steady growth. — Cellulosic ethanol production has been gaining momentum ...

[EPA Confirms 33 Small Refinery Waiver Applications](#)

June 27, 2018 – (Argus Media) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was considering applications to waive 2017 federal fuel blending requirements from 33 refiners this month, up from the 29 it confirmed in April, the agency said today (June 26, ...

[Ethanol, Not Oil, Should Be Focus of EPA](#)

June 26, 2018 – by Dale Christensen (Argus Leader) The new EPA Director, E. Scott Pruitt is reworking the EPA. It appears their new mission is to rewrite all the rules to benefit the Oil Industry! The old rule of order ...

[Ethanol Provides Value to Everyone in the Chain](#)

June 26, 2018 – by John Duff (Delta Farm Press) ... Regardless of policy, ethanol presents a value proposition to all involved. Ethanol gives farmers access to more markets and greater global market liquidity. In a world where 74% of ...

[EXCLUSIVE-Trump's EPA Ignored Energy Department Calls to Limit Biofuel Waivers](#)

June 26, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters) The Trump administration's Environmental Protection Agency has consistently ignored recommendations from the Department of Energy to reject or limit waivers to oil refiners seeking exemptions from nation's biofuels law, according ...

[BoatUS Conducting Ethanol, Summertime Refueling Survey](#)

June 26, 2018 – (Boating Industry/Boating Owners Association of The United States) With the start of the boating season, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) wants to hear from boaters about their experiences with ethanol fuels in an ...

[Barrasso Statement on Forthcoming Biofuel Mandate for 2019](#)

June 26, 2018 – (Office of Senator John Barrasso (R-WY)) U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), issued the following statement on the forthcoming biofuel mandate for 2019.

"I will carefully examine EPA's ...

[Ethanol Discussion Needs to Be Based on Facts](#)

June 25, 2018 – by David Kessel (Marin Independent Journal) ... Discussions on

energy use and production are important, but need to be based on factual information, not made up red herrings.

- The articles state the intent was to ...

[Drain the Swamp: Fire Pruitt at EPA](#)

June 25, 2018 – (The Courier) ... Yet (Iowa Senator Joni) Ernst's recent attack against Pruitt at a Washington energy forum was triggered over Pruitt's "lies" about the Renewable Fuel Standard: not expanding year-round sales for the 15 percent ...

[The White House Continues to Drive The Outlook for Biofuels Producers](#)

June 22, 2018 – by Tristan R. Brown (Seeking Alpha) Three major policy developments by the White House have had a large impact on U.S. biofuel producers over the past week.

The EPA was initially reported to be on the verge ...

[House Members Demand Answers from EPA on RFS, Waivers](#)

June 22, 2018 – by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On June 20, 12 democratic members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Committee on Agriculture asked the U.S. EPA to provide additional information regarding its failed implementation ...

[EPA to Propose 19.88 bln Gallon Biofuels Mandate, up 3 pct – Sources](#)

June 22, 2018 –by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will propose setting a 19.88-billion-gallon biofuels blending mandate in 2019 under the Renewable Fuel Standard, up about 3 percent from 2018, according to two sources briefed on ...

[Advanced Biofuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard: Current Status and Future Prospects](#)

June 22, 2018 – (U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment) ... A number of exogenous policies have greatly impacted advanced biofuels markets and RFS (Renewable Fuel Standards) compliance. These include trade restrictions and duties ...

[EPA Considers Delaying Friday Biofuel Announcement: Sources](#)

June 22, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering delaying its widely anticipated announcement on Friday on 2019 renewable fuel volumes as it re-examines plans to force larger refineries to ...

[Growth Energy: Prime the Pump Success Driving Ethanol Demand](#)

June 21, 2018 – (Growth Energy) More than 2,800 retail sites will offer E15 by 2021, generating approximately 350 million new ethanol gallons annually, according to a one-pager released today by Growth Energy. The report touts the immense success of ...

[UPDATE 2-EPA to Propose Reallocating Waived Biofuels Volumes to Other Refiners-Sources](#)

June 21, 2018 – by Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice (Reuters/Successful Farming) The U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency will propose reallocating biofuel blending obligations waived under its small refinery exemption program to other refiners, in an announcement that could come as early as Friday, according to ...

[Ethanol Industry Goes Global as Gasoline Price Rally Deteriorates Demand](#)

June 20, 2018 –by Suzanne Danforth and Jim Venhof (Genscape) U.S. domestic ethanol demand suffered this spring relative to 2017, despite consistently favorable blending values and increasing Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) requirements. The decline, following a period of historically low ...

Latest in Federal Litigation



New Supreme Court justice nominee articles join policy-related litigation filed with 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.

[Trump Admin Moves to Throw out RFS Waivers Suit](#)

July 17, 2018 – by Amanda Reilly (E&E News) The Trump administration on Friday asked a federal court to throw out a lawsuit over EPA’s decision to exempt refiners from annual renewable fuel requirements. Government lawyers raised procedural arguments against ...

[California Regulator Sees ‘Window’ for Deal on Fuel Economy Rules](#)

July 10, 2018 – by David Shepardson (Reuters) California is ready to work with major automakers on revisions to greenhouse gas emission vehicle rules through 2025 and sees a “window” for a deal in the coming months, the state’s top ...

[Brett Kavanaugh Could Be Good for Ethanol](#)

July 10, 2018 – by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) President Trump's nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court could be good news for the ethanol industry and clean energy programs where adherence to the law is often challenged.

Trump said Kavanaugh, ...

[Justice Kennedy's Retirement Could Reshape the Environment](#)

June 29, 2018 – by Robinson Meyer (The Atlantic) A new justice will likely weaken the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act. — ... With Kennedy gone, a more conservative Supreme Court could overhaul key aspects of ...

[RFA Chief Knocks EPA Over Failure to Address Illegal Cut in 2016 RVO](#)

June 28, 2018 – by Jeff Barber (Opisnet) PA's failure to include in its proposed 2019 Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) an estimated 500 million gal of renewable fuels that a federal appeals court last year said the agency illegally excluded ...

[Colorado Business Owners Indicted For \\$7 Million Biodiesel Tax Credit Fraud Scheme](#)

June 21, 2018 –(U.S. Department of Justice) A federal grand jury for the District of Colorado has returned an indictment, which was unsealed today, charging two Colorado business owners with conspiring to defraud the United States and to commit ...

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

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER, too! Advanced Biofuels USA sends three newsletters: *Conference Calendar; Policy, Legislation, Regulations, Happenings; and a NEW Education Newsletter*. All can be found archived on

our [NEWS page](#). And [Click HERE to Subscribe to the new Education Newsletter \(Free\)](#).

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You are invited to assist us in raising funds to keep Advanced Biofuels USA providing independent information about advanced biofuels to the world.

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email: info@AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org. We'll send a special card acknowledging your gift.

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