



Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

GREEN Team

Grassroots RENEWABLE Energy Network

Newsletter for renewable fuels advocates

5505 NW 88th Street #100 • Johnston, IA USA 50131-2948 • 515-252-6249 • FAX 515-225-0781

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Energy and Commerce Committee Approves American Clean Energy & Security Act

The **Energy and Commerce Committee** approved the **American Clean Energy & Security Act (H.R. 2454)** on Thursday, May 21, 2009. This piece of legislation is a comprehensive approach to America's energy policy that charts a new course towards a clean energy economy. Eliminated from the original bill was a provision establishing a low carbon fuel standard.

"Today the Committee took derisive and historic action to promote America's energy security and to create millions of clean energy jobs that will drive our economic recovery and long-term growth," said **Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman**.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act will create millions of new clean energy jobs, save consumers hundreds of billions of dollars in energy costs, enhance America's energy independence and cut global warming pollution. To meet these goals, the legislation had four titles:

- A clean energy title that promotes renewable sources of energy, carbon capture and sequestration technologies, clean electric vehicles and the smart grid and electricity transmission.
- An energy efficient title that increases energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy, including buildings, appliances, transportation and industry.
- A global warming title that places limits on emissions of heat-trapping pollutants. This legislation would cut global warming pollution by 17% compared to 2005 levels in 2020, by 42% in 2030, and by 83% in 2050.
- A title that protects U.S. consumers and industry and promotes green jobs during the transition to a clean energy economy.

Grassley Continues Efforts to Ensure Science, Not Rhetoric, is Basis for EPA Biofuels Rules

On May 21st, **Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)** introduced legislation to ensure the biofuels industry is not penalized for the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA)** use of non-scientific data when determining greenhouse gas emissions. Grassley's bill improves several provisions with the expanded **Renewable Fuels Standard** that were enacted in the **2007 Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA)**.



Senator Grassley

"Every chance I get I'm going to bring this issue up. It's so obvious that the EPA's rationale doesn't meet the common sense test," Grassley said. "It's ridiculous to think that Brazilian farmers are looking to see what Iowa farmers are doing to determine how they run their own business, and quite frankly it's plain unfair to farmers."

Grassley has been pressuring the EPA to use sound science when determining the impact of biofuels on greenhouse gas emissions. Recently the EPA released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that relied on incomplete science and inaccurate assumptions to penalize the domestic biofuels industry for indirect land use changes. Grassley brought his concerns to the attention of **President Obama** during a recent private lunch. Grassley also raised the issue with **Nancy Sutley**, the **chair of the Council on Environmental Quality** at the White House.

Among other things, the bill ensures that greenhouse
–See **Grassley**, Page 2–

EIA: World-Wide Energy Demand Will Cause Biofuels Industry to Grow

World-wide demand for energy is expected to nearly double by 2030 and will be driven largely by developing countries, according to the **Energy Information Administration (EIA)**. The agency recently released their annual **International Energy Outlook**, reporting that while short-term energy demand is dampened due to economic recession, long-term consumption is expected to return to levels anticipated prior to the recession.

Linda Doman, international energy analyst at the EIA, said that developing areas including China, India and the Middle East will outpace developed nations in the demand for energy and will drive oil prices to very high levels. Consumption increases in developing countries are projected to grow 73 percent by 2030 as compared to a 15 percent growth in already-developed countries.

According to the report, demand for liquid fuels will gradually diminish with the exception of the transportation sector. There, liquids will be relatively unaffected by projected high world oil prices and will continue to serve as the primary energy source. Because of the projected high oil prices, ethanol and biodiesel are predicted to play greater roles in supplying alternative liquid fuels to the world market. According to the report, "Particularly strong growth in biofuels consumption is projected for the United States, where production of biofuels increases from 0.3 million barrels per day in 2006 to 1.9 million barrels per day in 2030."

Developed areas in Europe and developing areas in Asia, Central America and South America will also experience noticeable growth in the production of biofuels by 2030. Those areas, combined with the United States, will account for 75 percent of the world increase in biofuels production by 2030.

To view study visit:

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo/pdf/0484\(2009\).pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo/pdf/0484(2009).pdf)

Take Action to Support E15

Your support is needed for the EPA to approve ethanol blends up to E15 for use with all vehicles. Moving to E15 will create more than 136,000 new green-collar jobs. Increasing blend levels from 10 to 15 percent will also generate \$24.4 billion for the U.S. economy and will displace seven billion gallons of imported gasoline each year.

To take action go to:

www.IowaRFA.org

[Grassley continued from Page 1]

gas calculations are based on proven science by removing the requirement to include indirect land use changes, and exempts from the lifecycle greenhouse gas reduction requirements any biodiesel plants that were in operation or under construction prior to the date of enactment of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Also on May 14th, the **House Agriculture Committee** introduced a bill to correct flawed provisions in the RFS that are "limiting the potential for clean, homegrown renewable biofuels to meet our nation's energy needs."

Like Grassley's bill, this bill also eliminates the requirement that the EPA consider indirect land use when calculating the greenhouse gas emissions associated with advanced biofuels. It also strikes the restrictive definition of renewable biomass included in the EISA and replaces it with the definition included in the **2008 Farm Bill**. The Farm Bill definition of renewable biomass was developed in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies and other Congressional Committees and was discussed and debated in a transparent manner, unlike the EISA provisions, which were never openly discussed or debated in Congress.

Maple River's First Load of Biodiesel Hits the Road

Maple River Energy, LLC loaded up its first gallons of clean-burning biodiesel on Thursday, May 28th, 2009, a truly historic day for Iowa's newest biodiesel producer.



Maple River Energy, located south of Galva, is a five million gallon per year biodiesel refinery and also manufactures premium SYNERGY meal for livestock rations. Their state-of-the-art facility has multiple feedstock capabilities, allowing them to produce high quality biodiesel 365 days a year.

Renewable Energy Group out of Ames will market Maple River Energy's fuel through its international distribution channels in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota. Customers can pick up the biodiesel directly from their truck loading facility or, if they lack the manpower, contract haulers are available to deliver the biodiesel.

Maple River Energy is proud of its quality assurance program plan to meet ASTM D6751 specifications and looks forward to becoming BQ-9000 certified in the near future.

2000th E85 station Opens in Davie, Florida

On May 28th, the 2000th E85 station in the United States celebrated its grand opening in the community of Davie, Florida with **Griffin U-Gas retail stations**. Coinciding with the opening of the 2000th E85 station, **the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA)** also sponsored a press event and fuel promotion featuring discounted E85 for \$1 per gallon.

The expansion of the ethanol industry is allowing small communities all across the U.S. to benefit from the new jobs and economic opportunities the production of renewable fuels offers.



“Expanding ethanol production outside the traditional “Corn Belt” is vital to setting America on the road toward energy independence,” said **RFA President Bob Dinneen**. “Increasing the production and use of ethanol in places like Florida is helping provide stability to our motor fuels market against the volatile and costly nature of the world oil market.”

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson whose “Farm to Fuel” initiative is designed to produce renewable energy from Florida-grown crops, agricultural wastes and residues, and other biomass, comments on this milestone: “As ethanol and other renewable fuels become more widespread, the demand for the bio-fuels produced on our farms and ranches will only increase. It will reduce our dependency on foreign oil and give agricultural producers in Florida alternative crops to keep their farming operations viable.”

Renewable Fuels Promotional Assistance

The Iowa Corn Promotion Board, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association & Iowa Soybean Association are teaming up to partner with retailers of E85 or Biodiesel for grand opening promotions!

Retailers are Eligible for up to \$1000 in promotional advertising and materials!

Retailers are encouraged to contact Lucy Norton at lnorton@IowaRFA.org or call (515) 252-6249 at least 40 days prior to the planned grand opening.



Bently Biofuels Powers Virginia & Truckee Railroad's Green Efforts

National Biodiesel Board member **Bently Biofuels** of Minden, NV is providing biodiesel to power the **Virginia & Truckee Railroad's** diesel-electric locomotive. The historic railroad runs from Virginia City to Gold Hill and is one of the first railroads in the United States to use biodiesel in its regularly scheduled operations.

Thomas Gray, V&T Railroad Vice President said, “Our

vintage diesel-electric locomotive is vitally important to regular operations, and we are very pleased with the performance of the engine burning Bently's biodiesel. As with all antique equipment, changes of this type can be very challenging, but the biodiesel product certainly has lived up to its promise in our testing.”

The V&T Railroad plans to use different blends for different seasons of the year, with the highest blend used during the peak summer season, when the V&T Railroad operates up to 8 trains per day.

“We are excited to be working with the historic V&T Railroad,” said **Bently Fuels General Manager Carlo Luri**. “This is a great opportunity to show the public that it is possible to replace petroleum with clean burning, renewable fuel made from locally recycled resources. Biodiesel for the V&T is produced about 30 miles away at the Bently BioFuels plant in Minden, Nevada with cooking oil recycled from Northern Nevada Restaurants.”



New E85 Stations!

Algona Classic Stop

703 S. Phillips St
Algona, IA 50511

Also offering E10, E20 & E50

Mother Hubbard's

7522 Northwest Blvd
Davenport, IA 52806

Soap and Detergent Association Awards Researchers for Glycerin Development

Three researchers from **Pittsburg State University** in Kansas are the recipients of the 2009 Glycerin Innovation Award, Sponsored by **The Soap and Detergent Association** and the **National Biodiesel Board**.

Pittsburg
researchers



Zoran Petrovic, Ivan Javni and Mihail Ionescu were honored for their research that developed a new family of glycerin-based polyols, a series of organic molecules suitable for use in rigid polyurethane foams.

These foams in turn are used in thermal insulation (refrigeration industry and construction), packaging, transportation, adhesives, sealants and coatings. Total volume of polyols for these applications is measured in millions of tons.

The SDA/NBB Glycerin Innovation Award recognizes outstanding achievement for research into new applications for glycerin, with particular emphasis on commercial viability.

The award was presented at the 100th Annual Meeting of the **American Oil Chemists Society** in Orlando, Florida. Recipients received a commemorative plaque and a \$5,000 honorarium.

Real Biodiesel Facts Conquer Misinformation Once Again

When challenged by guesswork wrapped in official looking words and cover pages, biodiesel repeatedly proves itself as a superior fuel source.

According to the NBB, a study recently criticized biofuels for excess water use, but the facts behind biodiesel set it apart from other alternative fuels. Biodiesel is the most diverse fuel in the world, produced from a wide variety of regionally available fats and oils; half of which is soybean oil.

It is clear why biodiesel is an excellent fuel when you consider that the entire U.S. biodiesel industry used less processing water in 2008 than it takes to irrigate two Sun Belt golf courses annually.

Furthermore, a joint **U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Energy** "cradle to grave" analysis of biodiesel's production found it reduces wastewater by 79 percent and reduces hazardous waste production by 96 percent compared to that of petroleum diesel.

Soybean Checkoff Powers Tractor-Pulling Season With Biodiesel

This summer, the **United Soybean Board (USB)** and soybean checkoff will again let the power of tractor pulling tell the story of soy biodiesel. The checkoff will help co-sponsor the 82-event **National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA)** season for 2009, with one of those events being held in New Hampton, IA on July 18th and 19th.

These events will present an opportunity to educate the public on the high-performance and benefits of biodiesel: increased lubricity, the highest BTU content of any alternative fuel, high cetane and the best energy return of any liquid fuel.

ASA Testifies Federal Policy Undermining Investor Confidence in Biodiesel

One May 21st, **The American Soybean Association (ASA)** testified before the **U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Subcommittee on Regulations, Healthcare and Trade** on the impacts of outstanding regulatory policy on small biofuels producers and family farmers.



Uncertainty over federal policy, such as the extension of the biodiesel tax credit, implementation of the **Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS-2)** and implementation of the **U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Bioenergy Program** is undermining investor confidence in the biodiesel industry.

At the top of ASA's list of regulatory policy concerns is the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** for implementation of the expanded RFS-2. This proposed rule includes several very obvious and immediate flaws and concerns.

"The proposed rule as released contains unprecedented, untested and far-reaching indirect land use assumptions and projections which will adversely impact markets for U.S. farmers and impede our national efforts to reduce dependence on foreign oil and thus impede efforts to improve our environmental footprint," said **ASA Vice President Ray Gaesser**, a soybean producer from Corning, Iowa. "We are concerned that EPA has attributed an undue degree of land use causation to U.S. biofuels production and that EPA's assumptions do not adequately consider the other market factors (population growth, food and feed demand, timber prices, etc.) that have historically driven international land use decisions."