



21 Members of Congress Send Letter to EPA Urging Processing of Outstanding RFS Applications, Including Electricity

Bipartisan Letter Sent Prior to Release of 2020 Renewable Volume Obligation

Washington, DC – June 11, 2019 –Last week, a letter signed by 21 members of Congress, led by Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) and Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME), was sent to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler urging the EPA to “expeditiously review and approve worthy pending applications to produce RFS-certified fuels, permitting them to proceed to market.” The letter specifically highlighted the contributions of electricity from biomass, biogas and other qualifying forms of renewable energy to rural economies, and the need to include these and other pathways in the RFS “to allow approved pathways the market access that Congress intended them to have.”

“We are extremely grateful to the 21 signers of this letter to the EPA articulating the EPA’s violation of implementing Congress’ intentions by not including electricity in the RFS,” said Bob Cleaves, president and CEO of Biomass Power Association, one of three founding organizations of the RFS Power Coalition. “As of today, it’s been 11 years and 174 days since RFS2 was signed into law, which included electricity. As the letter points out, the EPA’s refusal to process electricity applications has an impact far beyond our individual power producers; entire supply chains including farms, forests, loggers and local governments are suffering due to the EPA’s failure to act.”

“We’d like to extend a huge thank you to all 21 signers of this letter, who represent farmers, foresters, local governments and other stakeholders in the creation of electricity from biogas, biomass and other qualifying forms of renewable energy,” said Patrick Serfass, executive director of American Biogas Council. “We hope this is the wakeup call that EPA needs to include electricity in the RFS, ideally in advance of its release of the 2020 Renewable Volume Obligation.”

About the RFS Power Coalition

The RFS Power Coalition is a group of organizations dedicated to activating the renewable electricity pathway of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The Coalition is led by the [Biomass Power Association](#) and [American Biogas Council](#), the trade associations that represent, respectively, domestic biomass power producers who use organic fuels like forest residues, and biogas-to-electricity producers like dairy farmers and wastewater treatment facilities. All feedstocks used by these technologies – biomass, biogas and biogenic waste – qualify as renewable transportation fuels that should be included in the D3 cellulosic and D5 advanced fuel categories of the RFS. <https://rfspower.com>

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is the only statutory federal program that specifically requires carbon dioxide reductions for mobile sources in the transportation sector. Unfortunately, delays in reviewing new RFS pathway petitions have inhibited the growth and development of the next generation of innovative transportation fuels.

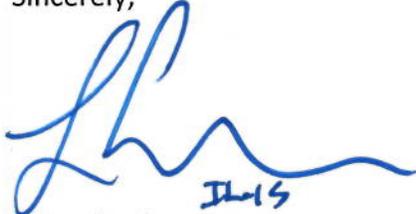
These delays are not limited to one type of fuel. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website lists nearly two dozen pending petitions for renewable fuel pathways – including petitions for liquid fuels as well as renewable electricity – that remain under review. It's time for reviews of these innovative new fuels to be completed in order to allow approved pathways the market access that Congress intended them to have.

Our constituents include biomass, biogas and waste-to-energy electricity producers together with local governments and the thousands of workers involved in these industries throughout the entire supply chain. The renewable fuel production facilities they supply and operate are linchpins of local economies, creating value out of materials that would otherwise be discarded or sold below their full market value.

Farmers, truckers, local governments, landowners, loggers and forest owners rely on these facilities as part of their supply chains, revenue streams or municipal infrastructure. They provide a valuable service to our states and communities, yet many are experiencing challenging economics due to unnecessary barriers to market access and federal incentive programs that have too narrowly focused on other technologies.

We urge EPA to expeditiously review and approve worthy pending applications to produce RFS-qualified renewable fuels, permitting them to proceed to market. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Donald Payne Jr.
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress