



RFS Power Coalition Applauds Re-Introduction of Shaheen/Thune Bill to Approve RFS Applications and Pathway Petitions from Electricity Producers

February 11, 2021 – Washington, DC – The RFS Power Coalition announced its support today for legislation introduced by Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and John Thune (R-SD) that would require the EPA to take action on stalled Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) pathway petitions and applications submitted by biogas, biomass and waste-to-energy power producers. Dozens of new pathway petitions and registration requests have sat idle at EPA since 2016, while renewable electricity producers have been completely shut out from RFS participation since the inception of the current version of the program in 2007.

For Senators Shaheen and Thune, this bill demonstrates their support for acknowledging the vital role biofuels play in providing renewable power for electric transportation. This bill is a step toward ensuring that small and mid-sized power producers rightfully receive credits for the clean power they currently supply for transportation. Senator Shaheen and Senator Thune introduced a version of this bill in the previous Congress.

Senator Shaheen said “I’m proud to reintroduce this bill along with Senator Thune to tackle the backlog of advanced biofuel registrations, empowering producers to utilize the latest technology and research in fuel production. I have long worked to level the playing field for our biomass producers to participate in the Renewable Fuel Standard, and I’ll continue to fight for investments that strengthen our energy industry to build a more sustainable future.”

In a statement, Senator Thune added that “This bill will permit biofuel producers to capitalize on the research and facility investments they have made to bring this technology to scale, improve their operating margins, and further lower lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions. This will strengthen the biofuel industry, which continues to provide an essential market for South Dakota farmers.”

The bill would require the EPA to make decisions within 90 days regarding registration applications that have been pending for more than 180 days as of February 4, 2021. Applications would be automatically approved if no decision is made within that 90-day window. It would also require EPA to approve registrations for certain biofuels that qualify for

at least one state low carbon fuel standard (LCFS) program, despite not yet being approved by EPA.

"We greatly appreciate the support of Senator Thune and Senator Shaheen in getting the EPA to process RFS applications and pathway petitions," said Carrie Annand, Biomass Power Association Executive Director. "For more than a decade, the biomass power industry has been waiting to participate in the RFS. Our members deserve credit for supplying carbon beneficial power for electric transportation, and the consistent support of these Senators will be instrumental in making this happen."

Patrick Serfass, Executive Director of the American Biogas Council added that, "The ABC deeply values the continued support of Senators Shaheen and Thune in requiring the EPA to address these outstanding biogas to electricity issues. The RFS2 was passed by Congress and implemented in 2010. Since then, producers who are making biogas to electricity have been discriminated against by the EPA. Many of these projects are on small family farms and could greatly benefit from the additional support that participation in the RFS would bring. We urge the EPA to move forward on these pathways which will enable carbon negative fuels to power clean electric vehicles."

The RFS Power Coalition looks forward to assisting Senator Shaheen and Senator Thune in building support for the bill.

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](#), [American Biogas Council](#) and [Energy Recovery Council](#), the trade associations that represent, respectively, domestic biomass power producers who use organic fuels like forest residues, biogas-to-electricity producers like dairy farmers and wastewater treatment facilities, and waste-to-energy producers. All three fuels – 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>