



Comments of the Iowa Biodiesel Board on Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: 2012 Renewable Fuel Standards, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

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The Iowa Biodiesel Board, a trade association representing the biodiesel industry in Iowa, appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Proposed Rule for Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: 2012 Renewable Fuel Standards. The IBB supports the Environmental Protection Agency's latest renewable fuels proposal to increase the Biomass-based Diesel volume to 1 billion gallons in 2012 and 1.3 billion gallons in 2013. This is a sustainable increase that can be met by the U.S. biodiesel industry within the bounty of diverse feedstocks used to make biodiesel.

The implementation of the RFS2 has breathed new life into Iowa's struggling biodiesel industry. Home to 15 plants with 315 million gallons of capacity annually, virtually all of our state's plants shut down or operated at reduced capacity in 2010. Today most of those plants are operating again, many at or near their full potential. Other idled plants have been purchased and plan to begin production soon.

The RFS2 has stimulated an investment in infrastructure, which is critical to the long-term success of biodiesel in our nation's energy portfolio. In Iowa, Magellan Pipeline has announced plans to install equipment for biodiesel blending at its Des Moines terminal. Other Iowa terminals carrying biodiesel are in Mason City, Ottumwa and Fort Madison. The RFS2 serves as a stabilizing force that will make these investments pay off over the long term. Despite claims of RFS2 opponents, the needed infrastructure is falling into place.

We shouldn't forget that the U.S. biodiesel industry sold – and distributed – about 700 million gallons of biodiesel in 2008. In 2011, monthly production numbers demonstrate it is on track to achieve the EPA's standard of 800 million gallons. Iowa alone could meet almost a third of the EPA's 2012 biodiesel targets. Claims that the industry can't achieve the production and distribution of the target gallons under this program are baseless.

Biodiesel is the only domestically produced, EPA-designated Advanced Biofuel made on a commercial scale in the U.S., and we commended the EPA for supporting the industry's growth. The RFS2 is building a solid foundation here – and nationwide – for American-made, cleaner burning fuel. Iowa is proud of its heritage as a renewable energy state, and stands ready for its growing role in providing America's energy.

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